

Hafa Adai!

June 30 is the deadline to apply for SBA's PPP. **PAGE 2**
Free legal assistance in jeopardy. **PAGE 3**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 127

www.saipantribune.com

MONDAY JUNE 29, 2020

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Settlement Fund is OK'd to intervene in PSS' suit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted last Friday the NMI Settlement Fund's motion to intervene in the lawsuit filed

» **PSS, Ada: Basis of Settlement Fund's desire to intervene fabricated**

by the Public School System and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada against Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Finance Secretary David Atalig.

See **FUND** on **Page 4**

Ban on temporary workers in effect; CWs not included

By **IVA MAURIN**
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is looking into the implications for

» **Administration to look into implication of temporary worker ban**

the CNMI of the temporary ban for certain work visas executed by President Donald J.

Trump last Monday.

Included in the visa suspension in place until Dec. 31,

2020, are H-1B or H-2B visas, which are given to temporary workers performing services or labor of a temporary or seasonal nature; L

See **BAN** on **Page 4**

Unpaid Yutu obligations: \$36M

By **IVA MAURIN**
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI has incurred \$93 million in losses a year after Super Typhoon Yutu, and is looking to accessing a community disaster loan from the

» **DOF trying to access \$93M FEMA loan**

Federal Emergency Management Agency to defray costs
See **UNPAID** on **Page 4**

IPI assures \$18.6M license, regulatory fees

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has assured the Commonwealth Casino Commission that payroll to IPI employees will be paid on time, recon-

nection for power and water in its staff housing and at the casino/resort will be paid, and that it will also honor the
See **IPI** on **Page 4**

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, June 28, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	231	17	248
Recovered	176	3	179
Active	47	17	64
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			11,648

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	30	0	30
Active	1	0	1
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			8,217**

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



PRIDE MONTH

The crosswalk between Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and the Paseo de Marianas is painted in rainbow colors as a show of support for the 2020 Ride4Pride Marianas motorcade that Pride Marianas Youth hosted last Saturday, June 27, in celebration of Pride Month. Other photo show one of the cars that participated in the motorcade and members of the public showing a rainbow flag as a show of solidarity and support for the LGBTQIA+ community in the CNMI.

KRIZEL TUAZON

INSIDE



BUSINESS

One of the islands' barbershops and beauty salons, Jigz Barbershop & Beauty Salon, has reopened.

PAGE 11



WORLD

The Brazilian government inks an agreement to produce a coronavirus vaccine.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

A New York City judge has rejected the Trump family's effort to halt a tell-all book.

PAGE 15



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Small businesses and agricul-

tural businesses in the CNMI looking to apply for a loan under the U.S. Small Business Administration's Paycheck

Protection Program would need to do so quickly before the June 30, 2020 deadline. SBA's Paycheck Protection

Program helps small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with funding to keep their employees on pay-

June 30 is the deadline to apply for SBA Paycheck Protection Program

roll, or to pay rent, mortgage interest, or utilities.

The program provides eligible employers the opportunity to receive a federally-guaranteed loan covering 100% of the cost, on the condition that they keep all their employees on payroll for up to eight weeks. Loan payments will also be deferred for six months, and no collateral or personal guarantees are required.

Based on the report of loan approvals through June 20, SBA has approved 4.6 million Paycheck Protection Program loans worth \$514.9 billion so far. In the CNMI, 440 loans have been approved, worth \$38,159,067.

Aside from the Paycheck Protection Program, SBA also oversees the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, providing low-interest federal disaster loans as working capital for small businesses in the CNMI that have been hit by COVID-19 since Jan. 31. Up to \$2 million in economic injury di-

saster loan may be availed of by qualified small businesses, private non-profit organizations, small agricultural cooperatives, and small aquaculture enterprises impacted by the pandemic, to help with their operating expenses.

As of June 21, based on the latest economic injury disaster loan report dated June 21, SBA has disbursed 3.7 million advances, worth \$12.3 billion. The CNMI has 151 approved economic injury disaster loans, worth \$726,000.

To avail of the Economic Injury Disaster Loan, small businesses may apply online, or download applications at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. The deadline to apply is Dec. 21, 2020, subject to the availability of funds.

Paycheck Protection Program application forms may be downloaded via <https://saiban.house.gov/sites/saiban.house.gov/files/documents/PPP-Borrower-Application-Form-Fillable.pdf>

03 DAYS LEFT

for the MCS Early Bird Discount

MCS EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DISCOUNT



Students Grades K4 - K5:
\$75 per child
(normally \$100)

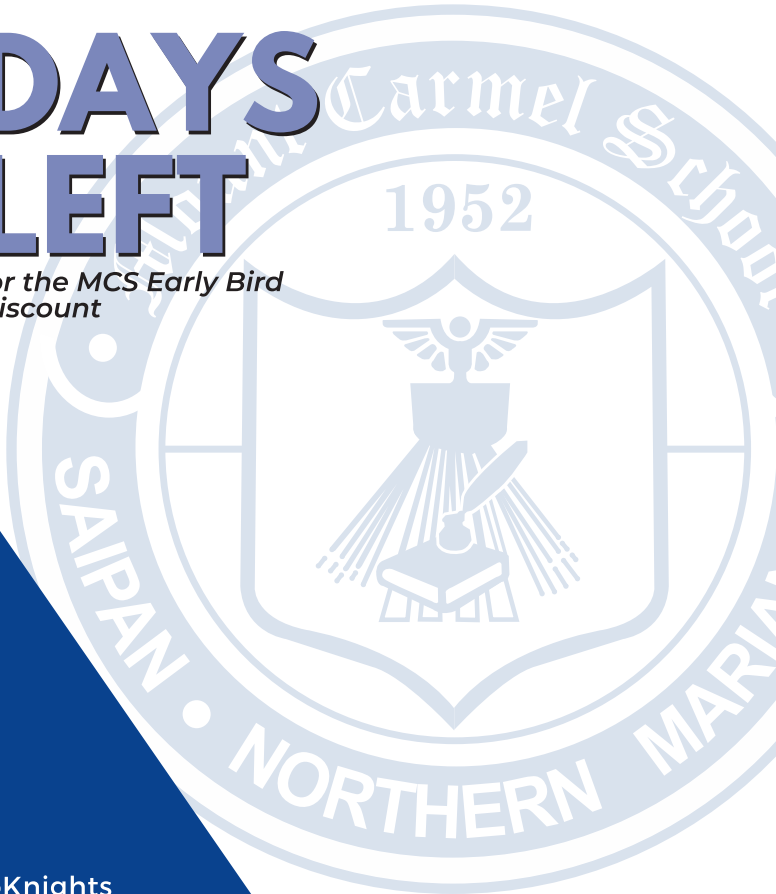


Students Grades 1st - 12th:
\$100 per child
(normally \$400)

Deadline: July 01, 2020



To apply online, visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com #GoKnights



PRINT + ONLINE + FB PAID PARTNERSHIP

ADVERTISE

with us!

CALL US 235.8747

Free legal assistance in jeopardy

By **IVA MAURIN**
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Free legal assistance for individuals and families with limited

means to pay is in jeopardy.

At the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs meeting last week, Micronesian Legal Services Corp.'s Marissa Flores

Ada appealed to the Senate for continued support, in line with the need for legal representation for indigent individuals and families in the CNMI.

Micronesian Legal Services Corp., through Public Laws 21-8 and 20-67, and Saipan Local Laws 21-10, and 20-26, has been appropriated

funds amounting to \$375,145. They have received \$46,888.30, leaving a balance of \$320,256.70 yet to be appropriated to their office.

"Civil legal aid representation is needed, now more than ever, because of the new normal and the impact of civil injustices nationwide. ... The impact of providing legal information to the community is essential, especially during the times of instability, stress, and uncertainty," Ada said.

Aside from legal representation, Micronesian Legal Services Corp. also ensures that the public is informed about their civil rights.

"Civil legal aid helps ensure fairness for all regardless of how much money you have. About 56% of the CNMI population was living in poverty in 2015 by the U.S. Census Bureau's definition. This was only five years ago," Ada said.

The data is expected to change following the completion of the 2020 Census.

Ada added that people are eligible for free legal assistance from Micronesian Legal Services Corp. if their household income is below 200% of the U.S. Federal Poverty Guideline for Hawaii, and if their assets do not exceed specific amounts.

"With the current state of the Commonwealth, this suggests that almost every individual throughout the CNMI can be eligible for services. However, due to the limited resources, MLSC is not able to help all persons who are eligible, and the need for free legal assistance in civil matters," Ada said.

According to Ada, their organization has adopted a case acceptance consideration as a guide in accepting cases. The funds, she explained, will allow them to continue providing services.

CHCC receives \$15K from insurance company



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Takagi & Associates, Inc. representatives present Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña, second from left, with a \$15,000 check as the company's donation last June 26. Photo left shows the company's Guam branch, along with its underwriting partner, Aioi Nissay Dowa Insurance Company, Ltd., also donating \$30,000 to the Guam Medical Society last June 15.



By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan branch Takagi & Associates, Inc., along with their insurance carrier Aioi Nissay Dowa Insurance Company Ltd. of Japan, presented a \$15,000 check to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. last June 26 at the CHCC's administrative office on Navy Hill.

"Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to our doctors, nurses, and health care workers who are on the front lines every day taking care of the community to get through the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak," said Satsuki H. Perez.

Takagi & Associates, Inc.'s Guam branch, along with its underwriting partner, Aioi Nissay Dowa Insurance Company, Ltd., also donated a whopping \$30,000 to the Guam Medical Society last June 15.

"We greatly appreciate the continued support, and we applaud you for your service," said Perez.

Perez stated that Takagi & Associates, Inc.'s Saipan branch has been in full operation during the pandemic and has not cut employee hours.

Scuba diving shops and businesses open

Scuba diving shops and businesses can now open at dive

sites on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. However, the Grotto in Marpi remains closed until further notice.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task

force still advise all divers and instructors to practice social distancing when traveling on a boat ride to designated dive sites, and as well as continuing good hygiene before and after diving activities.

Have Medicaid Dental Insurance?

- We would love to see you! No long waits, and Walk-ins always welcome. **Kind & Gentle Team!**
- We treat our patients like family. Join us for a cup of coffee today. Best AirCon and free Wi-Fi!
- **Hawaii Dental Service (HDS), StayWell, TakeCare, CIGNA & Calvos insurances also accepted!**

AWARD-WINNING
DENTISTS

DR. NELSON KRUM
DR. RICHARD ARBUCKLE



Paradise Dental



Middle Road, Gualo Rai
234-4040

paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com
www.paradisedentalspa.com



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A.
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131



WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

Your 2019 CUC Water Quality Report is now available on-line! This year, we have a separate report for each island: Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. These reports contain important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

Please open the following web sites to view what contaminants were detected in your water during 2019 and to learn more about your drinking water.

For Saipan, go to <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Saipan2019.pdf>

For Tinian, go to <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Tinian2019.pdf>

For Rota, go to <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Rota2019.pdf>

If you need the report translated, wish to speak with someone about the report, or would like a paper copy delivered or emailed to you, please call CUC at (670) 664-4282.

RA AYOORA REPOODIL AMMWELIL SCHAAL

Repoodil yóomw 2019 CUC Ammwelil Schaal aa yoor online! Ráagh yeel, ai ayoora repoodngáli falúw kka: Seipél, Tchiliyól, me Luuta. E lo llól repood kkal arongorong ikka e impotanti reel milikka e toowow me ammwelil schaal iye ów ghal úlúmi.

Emmwel ubwe suughi website ikka e amwirimwiritiw ubwe amwuri meta kka e nngaw iye e lo llól yóomw schaal llól ráághil 2019 me ubwe metaff reel schaal iye ughal úlúmi.

Ngáli Seipél, mweteló reel <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Saipan2019.pdf>

Ngáli Tchiliyól, mweteló reel <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Tinian2019.pdf>

Ngáli Luuta, mweteló reel <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Rota2019.pdf>

Ngáre u mwuschel rebwe seleti repood yeel, ngáre u tipáli ubwe kkapas ngáli escháy reel repood yeel, ngáre u mwuschel pappid yeel ngáre rebwe email-li ló ngálugh, faingi ló CUC me (670) 664-4282.

RIPOT KUÁLIDÁT HÂNOM ESTA MANAGUAHA

Iyon-mu 2019 na Ripot nu i Kuálidát Hânom i CUC managuahayi pá'gu giya on-line! Pá'gu na sákkán, in na'guahayi siparão na ripot para kada' isla: Saipan, Tinian, yan Luta. Esti na ripot siha masaguaniniyi impottánti na infotmation put i tutuhonña yan kuálidát put i Hânom ni un gigimin.

Put fabot baba i tinattiya na web sites para un atan háfa siha mankutchinu ni masodda' gi hálum i hânom-mu gi durántin 2019 na sákkán para un ke'tungu' mäs put i hânom ni un gigimin.

Para Saipan, hãnao para <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Saipan2019.pdf>

Para Tinian, hãnao para <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Tinian2019.pdf>

Para Luta, hãnao para <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Rota2019.pdf>

Kumu un nisisita i ripot para u matransláda, ya malagu' hão kumuentusi háyi put i ripot pat malagu' hão kopian páppit u ma'entrega pat ma-email guatu para hágu, put fabot hágan i CUC gi (670) 664-4282.

UNPAID

From Page 1

and the loss of revenue.

The Department of Finance has appealed to the Legislature to get a bill drafted and passed that would authorize access to FEMA's community disaster loan worth \$93 million, which the CNMI is qualified for.

While House Joint Resolution 21-9, HD1, Disaster Loan Authorization, is currently with the Senate, an actual

legislation is still needed to get the funds. Moreover, FEMA is currently only authorized to give up to \$5 million and, without a congressional legislation to authorize it to give more, the CNMI would not be able to access the full funding.

The CDL is a deferred loan, payable up to five years, with an interest rate pegged at .079%. However, there is a chance that the CNMI could have the loan forgiven, provided the government shows three years of deficit or loss of revenue for three consecu-

tive years after the disaster.

Finance Secretary David Atalig informed the senators of the CNMI's predicament at the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee meeting last week, and sought their aid in crafting the bill.

Atalig added that the CNMI is using the same model as what was authorized for Puerto Rico, as well as the U.S. Virgin Islands, through Hurricane Maria and other disasters.

"We're using the same model requesting for authorization for the first \$5 million right away, and up

to a total of \$93 million [that] we are qualified to receive from FEMA. But the action needs to satisfy the attorney general's approval, as well as FEMA's review of our laws and our constitutional mandate for operational funds. It must be a legislative action, not a joint resolution," he said.

How will the \$93M be used?

According to Atalig, the CNMI still has accounts payables of more than \$20 million for vendors from Super Typhoon Yutu. The first \$5 million that the CNMI could access following the passage of a legislation will be used to pay the vendors.

"Should we be successful in getting the U.S. Congress' authorization for up to \$93 million, we are finalizing our spending plan for that amount we plan to use the funds for. It's going to go to repayment of our Marianas Public Land Trust loans. It will go to pay for obviously all the vendors that are due for services rendered during Super Typhoon Yutu," he said.

There is a list of about over 40 vendors that the government still owes. Atalig said that he has been doing his best to try to make partial payments, to assist the vendors, but still has not been able to pay them all. "We're still waiting for funds from FEMA reimbursements," he said.

"We still owe several million dollars in cleanup debris, earthmoving contracts. We have large vendor payments still due to power source that helped install a lot of the concrete poles that we have here on Saipan and Tinian. And then we do have several different vendors, whether they're vehicle rentals or equipment rentals.

"We still have vendor payments for rooms that were used at some of the hotels. We still have some have some payments due to hotels we had first responder stay at coming in from the FEMA side," he added.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

IPI

From Page 1

\$15.5 million annual license fee and \$3.1 million regulatory fee.

CCC chair Edward C. Deleon Guerrero disclosed IPI's promises during the CCC board's monthly meeting at its Springs Plaza office in Gualo Rai last Thursday.

Deleon Guerrero said IPI made the assurances during his and other CCC officials and managers' meeting last June 2 with IPI officials: chair Cui Li Jie, vice president for Hotel Operations Henan Ma, investor Su Hong Tao, senior vice president of Public Affairs Tao Xing, and general counsel Michael Dotts.

Deleon Guerrero said the annual license fee of \$15.5 million is due on Aug. 12, 2020, while regulatory fee of \$3.1 million is due on Oct. 1. He said they were told that, accord-

ing to IPI's majority shareholder, IPI will pay the license fee and the casino regulatory fee.

Deleon Guerrero said IPI, however, wants to renegotiate the terms of the community benefit fund and that IPI will be submitting its request to the Lottery Commission for amendments to the Casino License Agreement. "They are requesting the CNMI government through the Lottery Commission for amendment to the casino license agreement in reference the community benefit fund," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said he is concerned that if CCC does not get any funding by Oct. 1, the commission may be forced to furlough just about everybody at CCC.

Deleon Guerrero said what came out at that June 2 meeting was that IPI, through investor Su, who was at the time authorized by Cui to speak on her behalf, told them that IPI will keep the payroll current and will

pay all outstanding payroll. He said Su stated that IPI will also clear its outstanding bills with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. so that IPI staff at the apartment/housing will have their power and water reconnected.

Deleon Guerrero said there was also a discussion regarding the amount owed for public lands. "I believe that the discussion was that that would also be paid, but probably later in the month," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said he did meet with the Lottery Commission and that he (Deleon Guerrero) was disappointed to hear that the letter that IPI had submitted was undated and that the Lottery Commission was not aware if the signatory of that letter, Xao Ting, was authorized to renegotiate the license agreement.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

FUND

From Page 1

Camacho, however, denied the Settlement Fund's motion to suspend the proceedings in the lawsuit.

At a status conference/motion hearing at the CNMI Supreme Court courtroom, Camacho ruled that since the Office of the Attorney General did not argue that they could adequately also represent the retirees, the motion to intervene is granted but, citing the Settlement Fund's failure to articulate its grounds, Camacho denied suspending the proceedings in the lawsuit.

PSS and Ada's motion for summary judgment will be heard on Aug. 28, 2020.

PSS and Ada, through counsel Tiberius Mocanu said he will file an amended complaint that will drop any language referencing the Settlement Fund so that it will not be part of the case.

Settlement Fund trustee Joyce Tang argued on the motion to intervene. Settlement Fund counsel Nicole M. Torres-Ripple argued on the motion to stay.

On the motion to stay, assistant attorney general John P. Lowrey first did not take a position for or against the motion to stay. He later changed his mind and joined PSS in opposing the motion.

But Camacho ruled that the CNMI court is a separate jurisdiction and no decision has been made that would affect the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action.

In their opposition to the motions filed Thursday, PSS and Ada, through Mocanu, asserted that the Settlement Fund's basis for its desire to inter-

vene is "entirely fabricated" and unsupported by fact. Mocanu said the Settlement Fund does not have standing to intervene as it does not have any interest in the lawsuit's outcome.

He said the Settlement Fund essentially argues that, should PSS succeed in this suit, the CNMI would risk defaulting on the settlement agreement in the Betty Johnson class action. That position prompted the Settlement Fund to intervene in the case and to suspend the proceedings so that it can enforce the settlement agreement in in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

"However, PSS does not seek to take a literal 25% of the earmarked funds to the Settlement Fund. Nor does it seek to limit, reduce, or stop any payment to the Settlement Fund," he said.

Instead, Mocanu said, PSS asks that the Superior Court find the earmarks listed in its complaint unconstitutional inasmuch as they do not function to create special revenue and thus shield the same from the calculation of PSS' constitutional entitlement to 25% of general revenue.

He said PSS is not trying to take 25% of what is owed the Settlement Fund.

PSS, the lawyer said, just wants the \$43 million the Settlement Fund was paid this year to be declared as paid from the general revenues of the Commonwealth and thus to be included in the calculation of the total amount available for appropriation, of which PSS is entitled to 25%.

"It's that simple," Mocanu said.

He said the Settlement Fund may have a semblance of an argument to intervene had PSS actually moved forward with its prior intention to file

for a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction. Mocanu said PSS has already dropped its bid for any form of injunctive relief.

He said PSS' prior intention to do so was a consequence of no longer receiving appropriations from the government and thus being unable to fund the continued operation of its schools. "However, on account of the pandemic and the governor's executive order, the schools were closed for another reason and PSS furloughed its employees," Mocanu said.

PSS and Ada sued Torres and Atalig to guarantee for PSS an annual budget of not less than 25% of the Commonwealth's general revenue.

In their lawsuit, PSS and Ada alleged that Torres is in violation of the NMI Constitution because he is carrying out payments and collections under Public Law 21-08, which established the Commonwealth government budget for fiscal year 2020. That law, Mocanu said, appropriated \$37,718,904 to PSS, which is approximately 16% of the budget.

PSS and Ada also alleged that Atalig is in violation of the CNMI Constitution because every allotment and disbursement made pursuant to P.L. 21-08 is unconstitutional.

PSS and Ada asked the court to declare that P.L. 21-08 is unconstitutional.

In their answer to the lawsuit, Torres and Atalig, through the Office of the Attorney General, said the governor's actions are licensed by the state of emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-04, pursuant to the CNMI Constitution, the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Act, and the CNMI Emergency Health Powers Act of 2003.

BAN

From Page 1

visas which are for intra-company transferees; and J visas, which are given to physicians, professors, scholars, teachers, and exchange visitors.

"Right now, we're trying to look at the implications. There's a lot of H-2B on island, also H-1B visas. There's certainly going to be implications and we need to take a look at that with the attorney general and see what we need to do," said acting governor Arnold I. Palacios.

He added that they would need to take a closer look at the President's order, and obtain more clarification from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services as to whether there is an avenue for the CNMI to make a case regarding the situation. With many projects ongoing in the CNMI, the Commonwealth expects to continue to need H-2B visas.

"In terms of construction, let's be honest about it, I don't think we can strengthen our [local] construction labor force in the next five to 10 years. We were hoping that we could continue to recruit, actually, from the outside," Palacios said, adding that his biggest concern would be health professionals. "We're lucky that we have CW [CNMI-Transitional Only workers] visas to address that issue," he added.

CWs are not affected

In a separate interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said that "President Trump's June 22 proclamation does not apply to CWs at all."

The proclamation also does not apply to lawful permanent residents, immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, workers related to the food supply chain, and workers whose entry "is in the national interest."

Sablan said that making foreign workers leave will transform Saipan into "almost like a ghost town."

"[The] population here is so diverse already and sending away the workers, many of these workers occupy positions that U.S. citizens,

U.S. workers don't [want to] occupy. And it's not just here, it's throughout the nation," he added. "They are very important to our economy, and I want to give them H.R. 560. It doesn't give them any privilege, any access to public charge programs, it just gives them status here as a permanent resident only in the Northern Marianas."

H.R. 560, introduced by Sablan to provide permanent resident status to long-term CW workers and investors only in the CNMI, is now in the Senate after the U.S. House of Representatives passed it in February.

3-year permit for long-term workers

In the meantime, Sablan's e-newsletter announced that the Interim Final Rule implementing the NMI U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 took effect last week.

"Employers can now petition CW-1 workers, who meet the definition of long-term worker in the law, for the new, three-year permit. Employers are also now subject to new requirements, including e-verify program enrollment, semi-annual verification of CW-1 employment, and temporary departure," he said.

Aside from this, USCIS also announced the automatic extension of parole and employment authorization for Marianas persons with parole expiring on June 29, 2020.

According to Sablan, USCIS "is taking this action to allow those applying for CNMI Long-Term Resident Status to do so without worrying about their status."

Those covered will need a copy of the web alert, Form I-766 (EAD) with the "C-11" category code and expiration date on or before June 29, 2020, as proof of identity, and work authorization, as proof of employment eligibility.

"Public Law 116-24 established the CNMI Long-Term Resident status. I introduced the legislation to provide permanent status for certain persons affected by the termination of the CNMI categorical parole programs in December 2018," said Sablan. "Applications must be received by Aug. 17, 2020. This is the only opportunity to apply."

NMHC series to talk about racial equality and civil unrest

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will feature a series of interviews called "Racial Equality & Civil Unrest," to take a deep dive into these issues through the lens of the humanities. Our first conversation in this series is with Dr. Beylul Solomon of the Northern Marianas College. Solomon presents a broad view of racial equal-

ity and civil unrest from the perspective of the individual and society. She will share perspectives on these issues in the context of the U.S., the Marianas, and her own personal experiences.

You can view a premier of Racial Equality & Civil Un-



Solomon

rest featuring Solomon by visiting the council's Facebook site, @670humanities, on June 29, 2020 (Monday) at noon.

NMHC recognizes that the growing public demonstrations and protests throughout the U.S. and the Marianas has

brought focus and awareness to the issues and conditions that perpetuate racial inequality and discrimination in our society.

"The data, and personal stories of people everywhere, suggests that our world is filled with institutions, cultural norms, attitudes, and beliefs that continue to marginalize, dis-

advantage, exploit and discriminate against racial and ethnic minority groups," said NMHC executive director Leo Pangelinan. "In the U.S., discrimination based on race or cultural heritage is widely regarded as institutionalized or built-in to employment practices and access to housing, the media, financial and

criminal justice systems, and our schools. Our intent is for this 'Racial Equality & Civil Unrest' video series to facilitate a deeper understanding of and discussion on these issues facing our country today."

All interviews will be posted soon after on the council's YouTube channel. (PR)

NEWS BRIEFS

Quake hits San Jose

At 3:03pm on June 27 2020, a report of a 4.9-magnitude earthquake occurred 88 kilometers south-southeast of San Jose in the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

Andersen Air Force Base to host Military Exercise

ASAN, Guam—Andersen Air Force Base is scheduled to host a U.S. military training exercise in the coming days that will consist of several military aircraft operating in the airspace near Andersen AFB and A. B. Won Pat International Airport.

Residents near Andersen AFB, A. B. Won Pat International Airport, and in the surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased airspace activity over the next several days, as a result of the exercise.

This exercise and other training events support military readiness and are critical to developing the skills needed to respond to operational missions throughout the Indo-Pacific region. (PR)

MCS to transition to GSuite for employees and students

Mount Carmel School has acquired the Education GSuite and will provide its employees and students Gmail's using the domain "@mcsknights.com."

Education GSuite offers educational productivity tools built for teaching and learning. GSuite is a free service for

educational institutions.

"We're happy to have finally acquired GSuite for our school community," said MCS president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "Not only will it promote more technical support and resources for our faculty and staff but this also contributes to our college-preparatory program for our students."

MCS plans to transition faculty, staff, and students to GSuite for school year 2020-2021. (PR)

Financial aid deadlines this week

Northern Marianas College is reminding students and community members to apply for financial aid before the fast-approaching deadlines:

■ CNMI Scholarship deadline: July 1, 2020

■ SHEFA deadline: July 1, 2020

■ FAFSA (Up to \$3,198 for fall 2020): For priority consideration, submit your application by June 30, 2020. However, students may still fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid after the priority deadline.

For assistance:

■ For any questions about the CNMI Scholarship program, email awards@cnmischolarship.net or visit www.cnmischolarship.net to apply.

■ For any questions about the Saipan Higher Education Financial Aid program, email saipanshefa@gmail.com or visit www.saipanshefa.net to apply.

■ FAFSA: Visit www.fafsa.gov and complete the form from any internet capable device (Indicate NMC as a school choice by entering school code 015746); or,

for help with accessing Pell grants or filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at fao@marianas.edu.

■ Need any help with filling out any of the forms? Contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6791/2/3/4 or email fao@marianas.edu for assistance.

Visit www.marianas.edu to access information about enrolling at NMC in the fall or to register for classes. You can also contact the NMC admissions office by emailing admissions@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6768/6771. (PR)

PUA applications only available at DOL Office on Capitol Hill

Effective immediately, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will no longer be an application center for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program.

All PUA applications and inquiries will be handled directly by CNMI Department of Labor staff.

Copies of the PUA applications may be picked up from

the DOL office on Capitol Hill, building 1334, located on Ascension Drive. The DOL office is open from 8am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, all visitors to the DOL office are required to wear a face mask and to keep your distance as instructed by DOL staff.

CNMI DOL upgraded its hiremarianas.com portal, a Virtual One-Stop System used by DOL's Workforce Investment Agency to register, track, and manage its clients, to incorporate the modules needed for PUA/FPUC functions. The system is used both regionally and nationally and has advanced security measures with a strong focus on date confidentiality, availability, and integrity.

In the event that you may need alternative means of assistance, and are not able to access hiremarianas.com or need more information, email info@puamarianas.com or call one of the PUA/FPUC hotline numbers: 670-989-9090, 670-989-9084, 670-989-9081, 670-989-9092, 670-989-9089, 670-989-9083, 670-989-9080, 670-989-9093, 670-989-9000 (Tinian), or 670-989-9001/9097 (Rota). (PR)



We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude. Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(2) Activities Asst./Lifeguard

High School diploma or equivalent, 3 months' work experienced. Must be a certified lifeguard. Proficient in Microsoft, detail oriented, flexible to work different shifts including weekends and holidays. Due to demographics of visitors to Saipan, Bi-lingual in English-Korean or English-Chinese is preferred.

(1) Assist. Maintenance Manager

High School diploma or equivalent. 24 months of work experienced is required. Knowledge and proficiency on 3512 caterpillar generators, 85 kw aqua design desalination plants, chiller systems, pumps, filtration systems for swimming pools and reverse osmosis systems are required. Must be a certified reverse osmosis (ro) technician in water treatment and distribution. Must have a thorough knowledge and experience in handling diesel plant and reverse osmosis operations. Must be knowledgeable in Microsoft word and excel. Possess basic math skills. Previous experience in management of hotel maintenance/engineering is preferred. Must be able to work under a flexible work schedule including early morning hours, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) Chef de Cuisine

High School Diploma or equivalent, 48 months' work experienced. Must be able to work weekends, holidays and flexible shifts. Experienced in preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required.

(1) Computer Support Specialist

Associate Degree in Computer Science. 24 months work experienced is required. Able to work weekends, holidays and flexible shifts. Hotel industry experience is preferred.

(2) Guest Relations Officer

High school diploma or equivalent, two years of work experience. Proficient in language: Korean or Chinese or Russian due to demographic of visitors/tourist to Saipan. Must have cashing experience and computer literacy. Must be able to work nights, days, weekends and holidays.

(2) Operations Assistant Manager

High school diploma or equivalent. Minimum three (3) years of hotel/resort experience and knowledge and managerial experience is expected. Able to work weekends, holiday, increment weather conditions and graveyard shifts.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Monday June 29, 2020
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock
/Employee Entrance. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.

ART MAN CORPORATION



- Sewer Pumping
- Snake Wiring
- Portable Toilet Rental
- Leaching Field
- Handling Recyclable Wastes

PMB 122 Box 10000 MP96950
Email :artmancorporation@gmail.com
Tel # : (670) 234-8079 / 287-8079

SPACE FOR RENT

Located at Middle Road corner
Quarter Master, Chalan Laulau


Office – 3,200 sq. ft.

Warehouse – 6,000 sq. ft.



WUSHIN
Since 1983 Committed to Safety Excellence

Please call us at 322-8733/7415 or send email to
wushin2@pticom.com for more inquiry.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-002-20

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT HAZMAT TRAILER TO TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TINIAN

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of one (1) unit HAZMAT Trailer for the Tinian International Airport, Tinian. Bidders shall take into consideration all charges associated with this procurement before finalizing their bid price.

The Bid Package is available for pick-up beginning June 22, 2020, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport, upon a non-refundable payment of \$100.00 in cash or cashier's check.

Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing through the CPA Procurement Officer via email at atudela@cpa.gov.mp on or before July 13, 2020.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid for Procurement and Delivery of one (1) unit HAZMAT Trailer/IFB-002-20". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than **2:00 p.m. Local Time, July 20, 2020**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Bids will be opened at 3:00 p.m. and publicly announced at the CPA Procurement Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport. Bidders are welcome to attend the bid opening. Bids submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any bids received after the bid submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned to the bidder unopened.


The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation for Bids; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the bid would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Invitation for Bid shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.


FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: _____



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-20-022

S-5 AND S-9 SEWER LIFT STATION RENOVATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the S-5 and S-9 Sewer Lift Station Renovation project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the renovation of the existing S-5 and S-9 sewer lift stations, including the renovation of the existing generator building and wet well with all new piping, fittings, pumps, generator, and other equipment and appurtenance. The project also includes the installation of a new S-5 forcemain and forcemain inlet structure, the relocation of the existing Hyatt Hotel sewer forcemain to an existing sewer manhole on Coral Tree Avenue, the installation of a new S-9 upstream sewer manhole and gravity main crossing route 308. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 300 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **June 18, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-022, S-5 and S-9 Sewer Lift Station Renovation"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) July 2, 2020, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 22, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water & Wastewater, Engineer – nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Administrative Support Assistant – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Framingham's applications for fall semester now open

Northern Marianas College is accepting applications for a Master of Education Degree with a concentration in International Teaching from Framingham State University.

Framingham State University, in partnership with International Education Programs Inc., a non-profit education organization in Massachusetts, has been offering graduate degree programs abroad for almost 30 years now.

The Master of Education Degree program with a concentration in International Teaching has been offered at NMC for 19 years, with more than 300 educators graduating from the program. The most recent cohort of educators to undertake this degree program received their degrees in May of this year.

Framingham's Master of Education Degree with a Concentration in International Teaching is a special program that was developed for teachers working in American and international schools abroad. The program consists of nine four-credit graduate courses in education (36 semester hours overall), and the successful completion of a comprehensive portfolio.

The curriculum was specifically designed to meet the needs of a diverse teacher population, addressing major education topics and issues relevant to all instructional levels. The courses provide a background in educational foundations and philosophy, instructional strategies, curriculum design, research, and the teaching of English as a second language. These on-site graduate programs provide affordable, accredited advanced degrees for educators.

School superintendents, principals, special education directors, and school counselors are among the very experienced cadre of instructors utilized in these specialized courses. Framingham State University is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The new cohort for the Master of Education degree program is set to begin in the fall semester of 2020 once it meets the minimum enrollment. Fall 2020 and spring 2021 courses will be held online for all of Framingham International sites including Saipan. More information on the admissions process may be obtained by emailing Diana B. Hocog at diana.hocog@marianas.edu.

For students interested in financial aid, the deadline to apply for the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, as well as the CNMI Scholarship Graduate Student Loan Program, is Wednesday, July 1, 2020. Seating is limited for this upcoming cohort, so those interested are advised to register now. **(NMC)**

Emergency water service outages

There is an emergency water service interruption currently in effect for its customers on Rosa Street in Garapan, near Kristo Rai, from Chalan Pale Arnold to Beach Road due to a possible 6-inch mainline leak. The area was isolated Saturday to reduce water loss. Customers in the affected area will receive limited water service for two hours today, June 29, from 7:30am to 9:30am until the leak is repaired. Repairs are anticipated to be completed today at 7pm. Water service for the affected area will resume soon after.

Earlier yesterday, there was also a water interruption on Texas Road, Susupe from Fong's Bakery to Jacinto Avenue and Jesus Street due to a 6-inch mainline leak. The area was isolated at 9:30am yesterday to reduce water loss. Repairs were anticipated to be completed last night at 7pm. **(PR)**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-023

CHINA TOWN WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of China Town Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; relocation of water meters from private property to right-of-way, installation of gate valve assembly, air release valves, fire hydrant assembly, flush hydrants; existing lateral service tap relocation; restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **June 25, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-023, China Town Water Line Replacement Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 16, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 30, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Kirztie Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email kirztie.reyes@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Technician Senior via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

MCS holds face-to-face commencement ceremony

Despite the COVID-19 restrictions, Mount Carmel School was able to hold its 60th commencement ceremony for its graduates last June 20, 2020, at its traditional venue inside the Mount Carmel Cathedral, while complying with social distancing rules to ensure everyone's safety.

This year, Mount Carmel School graduated 46 seniors, six of whom attended Mount Carmel School since first-grade. Out of the 46 seniors, MCS recognized many students for the special awards.

Kalea Lou Bullan Borja was recognized as the valedictorian for the Class of 2020, having earned the highest grade point average in her high school career at MCS. The salutatorian award for the second-highest GPA was earned by Danielle Jaden Kekoa Yamagata-Santos.

"I would like to extend my greatest appreciation to all the teachers, faculty, staff, administration, family and friends who helped, supported, and loved me to this point of my life," said Borja. "However, I am most grateful for my mother. Without seeing how hard she worked just to bring me to Mount Carmel so that I could receive a Catholic education, I would not strive this much. She made me more than



MCS
Mount Carmel School holds an in-person commencement ceremony on June 20, 2020, inside the Mount Carmel Cathedral. The graduates followed social distancing guidelines provided by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

what I was destined to be." In her speech, Yamagata-Santos said, "I'm most grateful to my family, friends, and school faculty. They have given me the tools and support to finish high school off strong. Looking back at it, I'll miss the close bond between our class. Even though our class is small compared to other graduating classes in other schools, it doesn't make us feel like we missed out on anything."

"We are extremely happy to be able to give a proper send-off for our high school graduates," said school president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "When our leadership team was informed that having a face-to-face ceremony was an option, many felt it necessary to make this event possible for our students."

Among the graduating families, Mount Carmel School also recognizes the "Loyalty

Families" who have chosen to send their child to MCS for 12 consecutive years. One of the loyalty parents includes Luz Rabang. "I feel incredibly grateful to be a parent from a school who has worked incredibly hard to make sure that our graduates get the most out of this ceremony despite the challenges that we are facing," she said.

Among the subject awards, Borja was awarded the Eng-

lish Award with Jim Michael Vergara Ham earning the honorable mention; Yamagata-Santos was awarded the Science Award with Lleyton Andre Albuen Javier earning the honorable mention; Haesu "John" Yeo was awarded the Mathematics Award with Mr. Kichang "Jack" Jeoung earning the honorable mention; Ham was awarded the Social Science Award with Javier earning the honorable mention; Casey Jo Pathil was awarded the Computer Science Award with Yamagata-Santos earning the honorable mention; Julia Ikeda Taguchi was awarded the Foreign Language Award with William Blake Camacho Deleon Guerrero earning the honorable mention; Pathil was awarded the Art Award with Jazmyn Rae T. Jack earning the honorable mention; Francesca Marie Avengana Bucalig and Mathew R. Richardson were both awarded the Physical/Health Education Award; Borja was awarded the Speech Award with Ham earning the honorable mention; and Borja was awarded the Drama Award with Deleon Guerrero earning the honorable mention.

Due to social distancing measures and guidelines, both the baccalaureate Mass and commencement ceremony

were limited to 50% capacity. While both events were limited to the graduates, immediate family members, and essential staff, to include as many family and community members, Mount Carmel School streamed the event live on its Facebook platform.

To ensure proper safety measures were followed prior to the event, Mount Carmel administrators worked with the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa to keep all participants safe.

This event marked the school's 60th commencement ceremony since its opening in 1952. The graduates from the Class of 2020 were also given the official title of AlumKnights, joining the school's legacy of AlumKnights who are leaders in business, government, and community.

When asked about Mount Carmel School's other graduating students in the middle school and kindergarten levels, school principal Barbara Merfalen said that depending on the safety regulations nearing the start of the new school year, MCS may have a virtual or face-to-face ceremony for its other graduates in the lower levels. **(PR)**



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID
ITB20-GOV- 079

Rota Infrastructure Maintenance Project – Renovation of the Rota Department of Public Safety's Operations and Administration Buildings

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are soliciting sealed bids for the *Rota Infrastructure Maintenance Project – Renovation of the Rota Department of Public Safety's Operations and Administration Buildings* in Songsong Village, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available on **June 22, 2020** at the CIP Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) at Capitol Hill.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) 70-30.3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and 70-30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference on **July 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** at the project site in Songsong Village, Rota. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Vida Marie Deleon Guerrero in writing by e-mail: vidamarie.cip@gmail.com, on or before **July 13, 2020** to the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB20-GOV-079 Rota Infrastructure Maintenance Project – Renovation of the Rota Department of Public Safety's Operations and Administration Buildings**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than **10:30 a.m. ChST, July 22, 2020**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:30 a.m. ChST, July 22, 2020** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 22, 2020** and mailed to the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply at P.O. Box 510008 C.K., Saipan, MP 96950 and the bid documents must be received no later than **July 31, 2020**. Failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at **10:30 a.m. ChST, August 3, 2020**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at **10:30 a.m. ChST, July 22, 2020**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check. If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Government Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Three Hundred (300) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be \$200.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS


(To be part of Solicitation for quotes, ITBs and RFPS)

- **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(a).
- **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontract or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b).
- **Contingent Fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.


The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Francisco C. Aguon
Acting Director, CNMI Procurement & Supply



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



ADDENDUM NO. 1
June 25, 2020

DPW20-RFP-005; CNMI Government Long Range Twenty-Year Highway Master Plan

- General: The following revisions, additions, corrections, and/or clarifications to the specifications and drawings shall apply to the work affected thereby. Careful note of this Addendum shall be taken by the bidder/contractor, and all trades affected shall be fully advised of the information contained herein. In the event of a conflict between drawings, specifications and this Addendum, the contents of this Addendum shall govern. All further conflicts in the work resulting from, or caused by, the contents of this Addendum must be brought to the attention of the Contracting Officer for resolution. Failure to acknowledge this bid Addendum in accordance with instructions may subject your Proposal to rejection on the affected item(s)/service(s).
- There will be a **Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **July 14, 2020, 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 22, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.
- Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW20-RFP-005"**. For proposers located within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **July 30, 2020**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **July 30, 2020**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of foreign country no later than **July 30, 2020**-AND must be received no later than **August 11, 2020**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

All other requirements of the Request for Proposals the project package shall remain as stated.

/s/ James A Ada
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon
Acting Director, P & S

Opinion

Hafa Adail

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 127

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

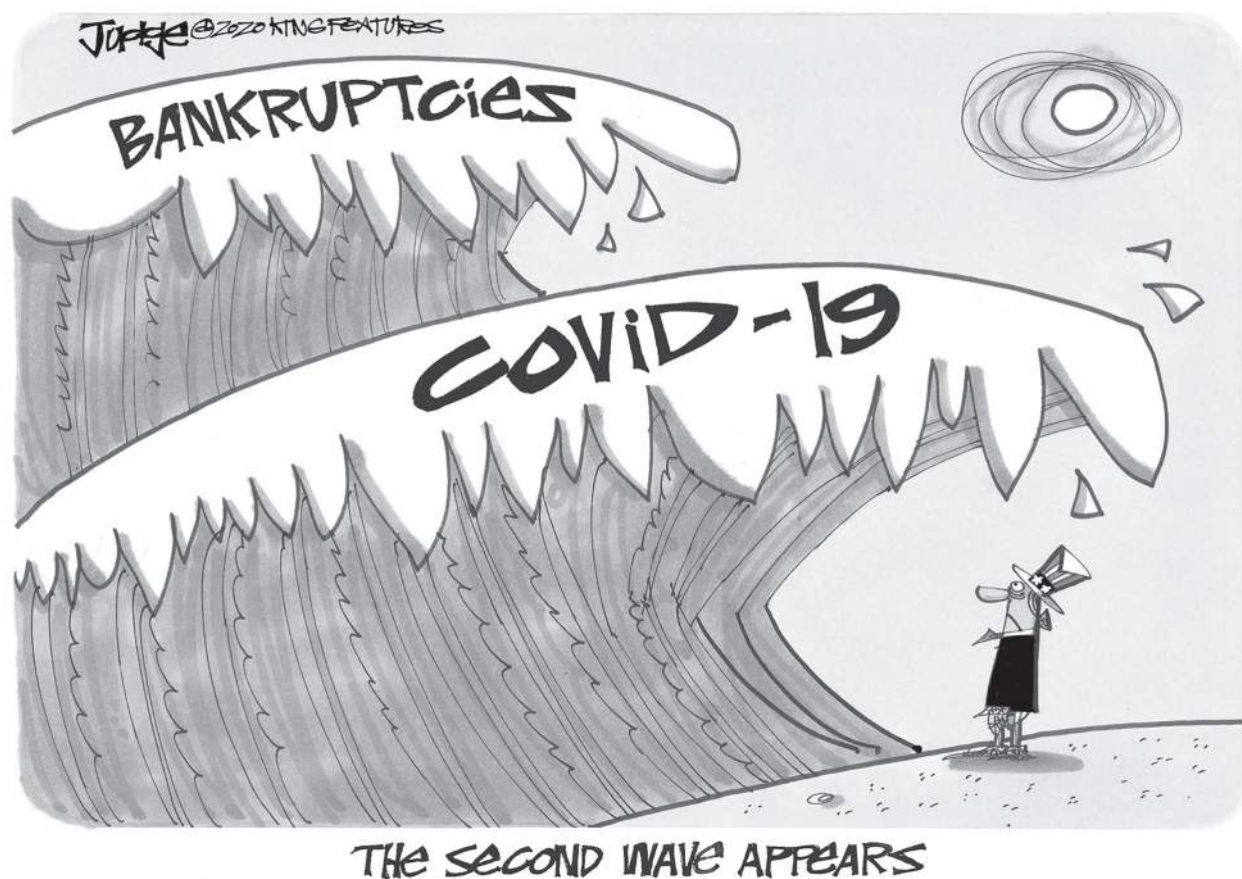
Pretending not to see coronavirus cases won't make them go away



The U.S. stumbled badly at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic when it came to testing. So few test kits were available, officials couldn't keep up with the infections emerging across their communities. And with no way of knowing where or how much the virus was spreading in their states, governors were forced to take drastic measures, most notably ordering people to stay home lest individuals with the disease overwhelm the healthcare system and die in numbers not seen since the 1918 flu pandemic.

The devastating consequences of those decisions will reverberate for years. And everyone agrees that we cannot afford to return to such a dark time. But as COVID-19 roars back in record numbers, that's starting to seem like a very real, and terrifying, possibility.

So it's bewildering that the federal government would even consider pulling funding and support for 13 federally financed COVID-19 testing sites in five states next week. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said Wednesday that it was planning to do just that at the end of June. Have we al-

See **PRETENDING** on Next Page

You may be ready for bar-hopping, but I'm not 'reopening' yet

The undergrad who lives in the back room keeps trying to get me to rejoin the world.

"Let's get coffee," she suggests one day. "Let's take a drive to Santa Monica," she suggests the next.

At 21, my daughter is long past ready to restart her life. She's been living at home since March 13, when her mother and I picked her up at LAX. The three of us went into isolation that afternoon, and she has had enough.

I have not. I am against reopening. I'm still hunkered down. Not forever, but for now. The pandemic isn't over, and in fact, the numbers suggest it is getting worse—again.

According to the COVID Tracking Project, cases are rising precipitously in Texas, Arizona and Florida. Reuters analyzed the project data and found a 90% increase in week-to-week new cases in Arizona, and about 80% in Texas and Florida, as of June 21. In California, the number of confirmed cases keeps increasing, with Los Angeles still a hot spot, and statewide, hospitalizations, which were somewhat steady, are also climbing.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, and just about every public health officer, epidemiologist and respiratory specialist in the country, is uneasy. "People keep talking about a second wave," he said recently. "We're still in a first wave."

Data analysis by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington projects a total of more than 200,000 COVID deaths in the United States by the beginning of October. And yet a whole lot of us appear to have come to a collective reckoning that three-plus months of being careful is enough.

The Onion evoked the absurdity of the moment with a parody news item announcing that Dallas had entered Phase 4 "of completely deluding ourselves into thinking that this pandemic has somehow stopped spreading and that we're safe."

In California, aside from sports, live performances and conventions, just about everything has at least partly reopened. Over the last few weeks, we have seen the return of in-restaurant dining and limited access to retail outlets, bars and gyms. Houses of worship can now host services for 100 congregants or less.

The logic is that mandatory face coverings and social distancing will keep us safe—or, at least, safe enough. But as the LA Times' Luke Money, Hannah Fry, Stephanie Lai and Rong Gong Lin II recently reported, "a mask rebellion is underway in some parts of the state." (Anecdotally speaking, based on the walks I take most mornings, I'd say the rebellion is everywhere.)

Then, of course, there's the Trump administration's reckless approach to COVID-19. It's possible that the president's so-called campaign restart in Tulsa, Oklahoma, was so sparsely attended because there is at least one thing I have in common

By DAVID L. ULIN
Los Angeles Times

David L. Ulin is a contributing writer to Los Angeles Times Opinion.



with some of his voters: I'm not ready to reopen. He chose to go ahead with the next rally, in Arizona, where about 3,000 of his supporters filled the Dream City Church and hooted at the notion that masks were necessary.

The argument for reopening comes framed, largely, as a matter of economics—and why not? Since March, more than 44 million Americans have filed unemployment claims. The financial effects of COVID-19 have been devastating, especially for the most vulnerable: low-income families, communities of color and small businesses.

Not unlike the institutionalized racism embodied by the killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, among so many others—or, for that matter, the coronavirus' toll in the U.S.—this is a pandemic of another sort.

And yet, what happens if we go back too quickly? The effect could be more ruinous.

"Another round of shutdowns might have even larger effects on businesses that may be on the edge of not being able to stay solvent," Dr. Christopher Murray, an expert on the burden of disease around the world, told CNN. The most effective economic strategy for the short term, in other words, may be to support our local businesses from home.

Look, I know I'm fortunate. Thus far, I've been able to work from home. I never went to the movies all that much, or to the gym, and I can't remember when last I set foot in a synagogue, mosque or church. Thus far, my version of reopening has been to set out earlier on my masked walks, to avoid the increased traffic on the streets.

Until all the lines on the graphs stay level, or we get fast and accurate testing and tracking, we're stuck. Humans aren't setting the agenda here, the virus is. That may not thrill the undergrad who lives in the back room. It doesn't thrill me. But reopening too quickly is not just irresponsible, it's societal malpractice. As I finished writing the count was 187,349 cases in California, 5,577 deaths.

And still on the rise.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Sustainable tourism and fisheries key to growth in post-COVID Pacific

Developing countries of Asia and the Pacific are experiencing unbalanced tolls of the COVID-19 pandemic. Grim milestones in infections and deaths have left countless devastated. Yet, we must look at the economic and social impacts in small island developing States, or SIDS, where setbacks are likely to undo years of development gains and push many people back into poverty.

Compared to other developing countries, SIDS in the Asia-Pacific region have done well in containing the spread of the virus. So far, available data indicates relatively few cases of infections, with 15 deaths in total in Maldives, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands. Yet while rapid border closures have contained the human cost of the virus, the economic and social impacts of the pandemic on SIDS will place the Sustainable Development Goals even farther out of their reach. This is worrying as SIDS in Asia and the Pacific were only on track to reach SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production and as they had in fact regressed in SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, a crucial driver of inclusive development and key to reaching all SDGs.

One reason SIDS' economies are severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic is their dependence on tourism. Tourism earnings exceed 50% of GDP in Maldives and Palau and comprised 30% of GDP in Samoa and Vanuatu in 2018. Measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, including restrict-

ing entrance to countries and halting international travel, will have a profound impact on the development of these economies in 2020 and beyond, with estimates of international tourist arrivals declining globally by 60-80% in 2020. The pandemic has particularly affected the cruise ship industry, which plays an important role in many SIDS.

The severe impact of COVID-19 on these economies is also a result of heavy reliance on fisheries, which represent a main source of SIDS' marine wealth and bring much-needed public revenues. The COVID-19 pandemic crisis will jeopardize these income streams as a result of a slowdown in fisheries activity. However, it is important to note that the COVID-19 pandemic may also create a small window for stocks to recover if it leads to a global slowdown of the commercial fishing industry.

Despite the tourism and fisheries sectors' susceptibility to shocks, ESCAP's latest report, the Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report: Leveraging Ocean Resources for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, emphasizes fisheries and tourism will remain drivers of sustainable development in small island developing States of Asia and the Pacific. They are among the most important sectors in their contribution to output and their importance for livelihoods. In the short term, addressing the consequences of the COVID19 pandemic must take priority, but the long-term global context will usher in an era supportive of tourism development in Asia-Pacific SIDS. This is

By ARMIDA SALSIAH ALISJAHBANA

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana is United Nations under-secretary-general and executive secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

due to an increasing demand from the emerging middle class of developing Asia and the ageing society in the developed countries on the Pacific Rim.

As part of post COVID-19 recovery, new foundations for sustainable tourism and fisheries in Asia-Pacific SIDS must be built. These sectors must not only have extensive links to local communities and economies, but also be resilient to external shocks. Enhancing economic resilience must focus on building both the necessary physical infrastructure and creating institutional response mechanisms. For example, a "green tax" for tourists can generate revenues for environmental protection. Such fees serve as an additional benefit for local populations and regulate the impact of tourism on SIDS' fragile natural environment. SIDS may consider innovative financing instruments like blue bonds and debt for conservation swaps to expand their fiscal space. Open data sharing, and the collection, harmonization and use of fisheries data can be strengthened for integrated and nuanced analysis on the state of fish stocks.

Given the limited capacity of the health care systems of many Asia-Pacific SIDS, shutting down access to many of these economies was a wise and necessary short-term policy choice. Opening "travel bubbles" with countries where the virus has been brought under control is now important. In the longer term, the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must take priority. This entails ensuring sustainable use of existing ocean resources and developing sectors that provide productive employment, including specific types of tourism and fisheries. SIDS can do more to embrace the blue economy to foster sustainable development and greater regional cooperation is an important element for creating an enabling framework. Regional cooperation is especially important given the nature of fisheries as a common property resource and the remote locations of most Asia-Pacific SIDS.

The COVID-19 pandemic has provided a stark reminder of the price of weaknesses in health systems, social protection and public services. It also provides a historic opportunity to advocate for policy decisions that are pro-environment, pro-climate and pro-poor. Progress in our region's SIDS through sustainable tourism and fisheries are vital components of a global roadmap for an inclusive and sustainable future.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ideas for a baseball cap

A response to the June 18th headlines on wearing masks, and the U.S. Supreme Court decision on DACA.

The extra-large boldface headline on the front page of the Las Vegas Review Journal is MASKS MANDATED. It is specifically for Nevada casinos to require players and spectators of most casino table and card games to wear protective face coverings. With a rise in COVID-19 cases across the nation, with a few state exceptions, why can't we have a U.S. national policy requiring wearing of masks? The saving of one life among family or friends would make it well worth it. Long-term effects of the novel coronavirus are beginning to surface, including loss of sense of taste and smell and secondary rashes among some children. Most grocery store chains, supermarkets, barber shops, pharmacies, and restaurants here in Las Vegas require their employees to wear masks. It seems to me to call for a baseball cap to parallel the MAGA hat worn by some who support our current POTUS who does not wear a mask. The hat would be blue with white letters and read: MASK across the top with a second smaller line below that reads: Mask America Safe Kindly. Any potential hat entrepreneurs want to give it a try? I want no credit

and hold no patent on any of the ideas or suggestions made here.

My second hat idea comes from a U.S. Supreme Court decision breaking on TV news shows on the morning of June 18. The banner headline running across the bottom of TV screens reads, "Supreme Court blocks Trump bid to end 'Dreamer' protections." This will directly affect over 700K Dreamers, to say nothing of their families, businesses they work for or own, hospitals, laboratories, schools, colleges, farms, factories, and the American dream of a better life here in the United States. Hooray for the 5 to 4 victory. My DACA hat design is to suggest a beige hat with chocolate cocoa-colored lettering, which reads DACA across the top with a second line below that reads: Dreamers Advocate Constitutional America.

Breaker. Breaker. Any taker? Both might be a money maker.

It would also be a small effort (and contain an inherent ironic element) for healing economic ties to have the hats or material for them made in China, Mexico, or some Third World country but message and/or assembly be here and printed in the USA. We are a democracy within a constitutional republic or, as some like to say, a constitutional republic practicing democracy. Happy 4th of July todutaotao CNMI.

Get a patent. Get them going. Keep democracy growing.

Joey "Pepé Batbon" Connolly

Las Vegas, NV

PRETENDING

From Page 8

ready forgotten the initial testing debacle after just a few months?

The news broke about the testing sites even as a resurgence of coronavirus cases has raised alarms across the Southern and Western United States. On Wednesday, the U.S. recorded the third-highest total of new COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began, and several states, including California, are seeing record levels of new infections. Things are particularly grim in Arizona (which hosted a rally for President Trump on Tuesday in which hundreds of unmasked people sat side by side yelling support), Florida and Texas.

Seven of the testing sites scheduled to lose funding are in Texas, which is experiencing what Gov. Greg Abbott—no coronavirus alarmist—termed a "massive outbreak of COVID-19." Things have gotten so bad there, Abbott urged Texans to stay home. Two of those seven sites are in Houston, where so many people infected with COVID-19 have been hospitalized that the city has almost no intensive care beds available for others who desperately need care. They rest of the testing sites are in Colorado, Illinois, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

It should be obvious that now is not the time to hamper testing in any way, no matter what Trump thinks about it. At a campaign

rally in Tulsa, Okla., Saturday, Trump said that he had asked aides to slow down testing to keep cases low. Later his handlers explained it as a joke, but Trump contradicted them, saying "I don't kid"—and later continued to voice his displeasure with testing, tweeting: "Cases up only because of our big number testing. Mortality rate way down!!!"

Well, no, cases don't go up just because you confirm their existence with a test. Not looking for cases just makes it harder for public health officials to target resources. In fact, not testing people is a great way to ensure many more cases by leaving infectious but undiagnosed people out in their communities.

Trump is not wrong about the nation's mortality continuing to decline, but that's not dispositive. It can take several weeks for an infection to result in death, so a surge in confirmed cases this month could mean a surge in deaths next month.

Granted, the decision to pull funding for the testing sites doesn't seem to be the result of the president's recent complaints. Federal officials have been planning for a while to shift more of the cost of testing onto states and private parties. Nevertheless, it highlights how the Trump administration has continually failed to lead during the pandemic, leaving states largely on their own to protect their residents.






What the federal and state governments should be doing is

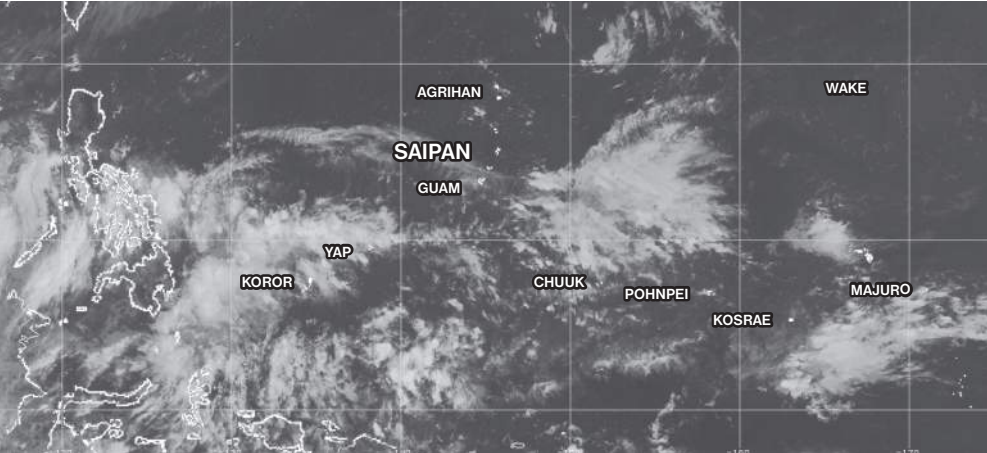
investing more dollars—millions, if not billions, more—into testing, tracing and isolation programs, while also putting into place a national pandemic strategy that moves away from trying to stamp out COVID-19 outbreaks after they flare up and instead seeks to prevent individual infections from blossoming into large-scale outbreaks in the first place. That way we might be able to get ahead of the virus until there's a vaccine and better treatments widely available.

Yes, it will be expensive, but continuing to lose the fight against COVID-19 costs orders of magnitude more in economic activity and in lives. More than 45 million Americans have lost their jobs during the pandemic and more than 120,000 Americans have died from COVID-19. And we know testing pays off. The countries that have contained their own coronavirus outbreaks, such as New Zealand, Iceland and South Korea, were aggressive and strategic on testing, tracing and isolating in a way in which the U.S. has not been.

Indeed, instead of pulling back on testing, the nation needs to double down on it. This is how we beat the "invisible enemy," of which the president speaks. Not by covering our eyes and pretending it isn't there.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	89°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:17 AM, SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Visible satellite and radar this morning show partly cloudy skies and isolated showers over the Marianas waters. Satellite indicates an upper-level low east of the northern CNMI near 21N153E. This upper-level low is combining with a trade-wind disturbance to cause an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 10N and 14N from 150E to 159E, or about 350 miles east of Guam. The buoys reveal combined seas of 2 to 5 feet, composed mainly of east trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/


STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors



CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

- ### Continue good hand hygiene
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

- ### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic
- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Monday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Monday	-	12:36 AM	1:04 PM
Tuesday	-	1:19 AM	2:01 PM
Wednesday	-	2:03 AM	3:00 PM
Thursday	-	2:51 AM	4:00 PM
Friday	-	3:41 AM	5:01 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	57° / 43°	
Beijing	Sunny	100° / 73°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 74°	
London	Sunny	76° / 63°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	79° / 62°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	54° / 41°	
Miami	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	91° / 73°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	84° / 75°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	84° / 63°	
Busan	Thunderstorm	73° / 72°	
Rome	Sunny	86° / 64°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	92° / 74°	
San Francisco	Sunny	67° / 56°	
Seoul	Thunderstorm	79° / 70°	
Tokyo	Windy	87° / 79°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	92° / 73°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:11 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.19	
8:54 AM	LOW TIDE	0.85	
2:14 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.65	
8:19 PM	LOW TIDE	0.73	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri				
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Business

Jigz Barbershop resumes operations

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Families that went through DIY haircuts don't have to go through that anymore, as one by one the islands' barbershops and beauty salons are reopening with the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions.

Jigz Barbershop & Beauty Salon reopened last June 20 after closing on March 30 to comply with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' directive.

"On the first day we opened the barbershop last June 20, I felt that people were happy because slowly we can go back to our normal lives. They really missed having a good grooming/haircut, head and beard shave, perm, hair dye, re-bond, and highlights done by our professional barbers and beauticians," said Jigz Barbershop manager Janette "Gigg" R. Hernandez.

Like all businesses on island, Jigz Barbershop was not spared the economic distress

For appointments and for more information, call 235-1929.

of the COVID-19 pandemic as the ensuing semi-lockdown prohibited them from operating. "Our business was affected a lot because clients were afraid to go out and opted to stay at home. Since our reopening, only a few of our older customers have come back and even our younger patrons haven't come back yet, perhaps because their parents are still afraid to venture out," she said.

To ease the concerns of those still wary of the coronavirus, Jigz Barbershop has implemented measures not only to safeguard customers but their staff as well. They only allow two clients to wait inside the barbershop. Customers and staff are also required to wear face masks at all times and all equipment—from chairs to razors, to scissors, to combs, to shampooing sinks—are always sanitized and wiped down.

"Our staff always makes it a point to wear face masks or face shields to protect both clients and our workers. Our staff also wash their hands and sanitize before and after they service our customers. We want to assure our loyal clients that we adhere to the protocols set by our health officials," she said.



Jigz Barbershop & Beauty Salon is located on the first floor of the CDA Building in Oleai.



Jigz Barbershop requires customers and staff to wear face masks at all times.



Jigz Barbershop now only allows two clients to wait inside the barbershop.

Hernando said despite the crisis spawned by the coronavirus, only one of her staff was furloughed and hopes that she would be rehired by July 3. "We are thankful that even though we have this pandemic, we continue to remain open to serve our customers' needs in making them feel and look good and

happy despite the current pandemic."

Jigz Barbershop is located on the first floor of the CDA Building in Oleai. It is open from Monday to Saturday, 10am-6pm, and Sunday, from 9am to 2pm. They are also open during holidays. For appointments and for more information, call 235-1929.

Nation

OVER REPORTED BOUNTIES PLACED ON US TROOPS

Biden slams Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)—Joe Biden attacked President Donald Trump on Saturday over a report that he said, if true, contains a "truly shocking revelation" about the commander in chief and his failure to protect U.S. troops in Afghanistan and stand up to Russia.

The New York Times reported Friday that American intelligence officials concluded months ago that a

Russian military intelligence unit secretly offered bounties to Taliban-linked militants for killing U.S. troops in Afghanistan. The report said the Russians offered rewards for successful attacks last year, at a time when the U.S. and Taliban were holding talks to end the long-running war.

"The truly shocking revelation that if the Times report is true, and I emphasize that again, is that President Trump, the commander in chief of American troops serving in a dangerous the-

ater of war, has known about this for months, according to the Times, and done worse than nothing," Biden, the presumptive Democratic nominee, said during a virtual town hall.



Biden

The White House said neither Trump nor Vice President Mike Pence was briefed on such intelligence. "This does not speak to the merit of the alleged intelligence but to the inaccuracy of the New York Times story erroneously suggesting that President Trump was briefed on this matter," press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said in a statement.

Russia called the report "nonsense." "This unsophisticated plant clearly illustrates the low intellectual abilities of the propagandists of American intelligence, who instead of inventing something more plausible have to make up this nonsense," the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

"As we see new cases rising, and we're tracking them very carefully, there may be a tendency among the American people to think that we are back to the place that we were two months ago—in a time of great losses and a great hardship on the American people," Pence said.

Coronavirus task force briefs—but not at White House

WASHINGTON (AP)—There was no presidential appearance and no White House backdrop when the government's coronavirus task force briefed the public for the first time since April—in keeping with an administration effort to show it is paying attention to the latest spike in cases but is not on a wartime footing that should keep the country from reopening the economy.

The Friday briefing at the Department of Health and Human Services was held as the number of confirmed new coronavirus infections per day in the U.S. soared to an all-time high of 40,000—higher even than during the deadliest stretch in April and May. In light of the new surge, task force briefers chose their words carefully to update the public about COVID-19, which has become both a public health and political issue.

Vice President Mike Pence had the most delicate line to walk. He acknowledged a surge in new cases across the South and West, while backing the president's desire to get the economy up and running without mentioning that it will also help the prospects for reelection.

But the vice president also took note of positive job numbers and added: "The reality is we're in a much better place."

Unbound by politics, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, sounded a more cautionary tone. "As you can see, we are facing a serious problem in certain areas," Fauci said. But he also was careful not to blame the recent spike on gatherings where people haven't worn face masks or adhered to social distancing guidelines.

Pence deftly sidestepped pointed questions about the apparent dissonance between the administration's admonitions that Americans heed the guidance of local officials and President Donald Trump's decision to hold a political rally last week in Tulsa, Oklahoma, over the

The Times quoted a Taliban spokesman denying that its militants have such a deal with the Russian intelligence agency.

The newspaper, citing unnamed officials familiar with the intelligence, said the findings were presented to Trump and discussed by his National Security Council in late March. Officials developed potential responses, starting with a diplomatic complaint to Russia, but the White House has yet to authorize any step, the report said.

Biden slammed Trump over his reported failure to act.

"Not only has he failed to sanction and impose any kind of consequences on Russia for this egregious violation of international law, Donald Trump has continued his embarrassing campaign of deference and debasing himself before Vladimir Putin," the former vice president said.

Biden called it a "betrayal of the most sacred duty we bear as a nation—to protect and equip our troops when we send them into harm's way."

objection of health officials. And during a Trump event in Arizona on Tuesday, thousands of young attendees violated Phoenix's mandate to wear face masks.

Insisting that Trump was "taking proper steps," Pence invoked the constitutional protection of free speech, saying, "we still want to give people the freedom to participate in the political process."

The White House over the last two months all but eliminated coronavirus task force briefings and sharply curtailed public appearances by its medical experts as Trump shifted his focus to getting the country moving again. The return of the briefing was a sign that the administration knows it can't ignore growing anxiety over the increased number of cases as governors in some states pause or delay reopening.

But the briefings are not expected to come back with the same daily frequency. And it's no coincidence, officials said, that Friday's briefing took place at HHS rather than at the White House. The president is still dead-set on cheerleading an economic resurgence even in the face of the spike in infections.

Asia

India passes 500K coronavirus cases

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's confirmed coronavirus cases crossed half a million on Saturday with another record 24-hour jump of 18,552 infections.

The Health Ministry also reported 384 new deaths, raising the total to 15,685.

The surge prompted authorities in the northeastern state of Assam to impose a two-week lockdown in the state capital of Gauhati. About 700 new cases were reported there in just four days.

Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the rest of Assam will be placed under a night curfew and weekend lockdowns.

He urged people to store essential goods and signaled a tighter lockdown where even grocery stores would be closed.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ China has reported an uptick in new coronavirus cases, a day after the nation's CDC said it expects an outbreak in Beijing to be brought under control soon. The National Health Commission said Saturday that 21 cases had been confirmed nationwide in the latest 24-hour period, including 17 in the nation's capital.

City officials have temporarily shut a huge wholesale food market where the virus spread widely, re-closed schools and locked down some neighborhoods. According to China's CDC, testing has found only a few infected people without a link to the market and that the steps taken mean the risk of further spread is low, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Anyone leaving Beijing is required to have a negative result from a nucleic acid test within the previous seven days. Many Chinese are traveling during a four-day holiday weekend that ends Sunday. China has reported 83,483 confirmed cases and 4,634 deaths in the pandemic. People who test positive but show no symptoms are not included in its official case count.

■ South Korea has reported 51 newly confirmed cases of the coronavirus as fresh clusters continue to emerge in the densely populated Seoul area. They bring the national caseload to 12,653, including 282 deaths. Thirty-five of the new cases came from Seoul and nearby cities and towns, which have been at the center of a COVID-19 resurgence since late May. Twelve others

were linked to international arrivals. Health authorities are struggling to trace contacts and predict infection routes with new clusters popping up from just about everywhere. Hundreds of infections have been linked to nightspots, church gatherings, restaurants and low-income workers such as door-to-door salespeople and warehouse employees. Officials have so far resisted calls to reimpose stronger social distancing guidelines after easing them in mid-April, citing concerns about a fragile economy.

■ Australian health officials are expecting more cases of COVID-19 as hundreds of nationals return from overseas to begin mandatory quarantine. About 300 people are due to arrive in Adelaide this weekend from Mumbai, India, while hundreds are expected to follow from South America and Indonesia. People in hotel quarantine will be tested for the coronavirus at the start and end of their 14-day isolation. South Australia state Health Minister Stephen Wade says he's preparing for about 5% to 10% returnees to have the virus, as was the case when people returned from Indonesia in other states.

Satellite images show buildup on disputed India-China border

BEIJING (AP)—Construction activity appeared underway on both the Indian and Chinese sides of a contested border high in the Karakoram mountains a week after a deadly clash in the area left 20 Indian soldiers dead, satellite images showed.

The images released this week by Maxar, a Colorado-based satellite imagery company, show new construction activity along the Galwan River Valley, even as Chinese and Indian diplomats said military commanders had agreed to disengage from a standoff there.

The images appeared to show that the Indians had built a wall on their side and the Chinese had expanded an outpost camp at the end of a long road connected to Chinese military bases farther from the poorly defined border, according to experts.

The contradictions in words and deeds showed the fragility of an agreement following the worst violence since the Asian giants went to war in 1962 over their competing claims

to the arid border region, experts said.

China has said that India first changed the status quo last August when it split the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two federal territories—the territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the territory of Ladakh, parts of which are contested by China.

The new maps released by India following the move drew criticism from Beijing because they showed Aksai Chin—an area administered by China but contested by India—as part of Ladakh.

Indian officials said the standoff that culminated in this month's deadly clash in the Galwan Valley, part of a remote stretch of the 3,380-kilometer (2,100-mile) Line of Actual Control, or LAC, established following the 1962 war, began in early May when large contingents of Chinese soldiers entered deep inside Indian-controlled territory at three places in Ladakh, erecting tents.

After a few skirmishes in May, Indian and Chinese com-

manders met June 6 to hash out an agreement that would reduce tensions.

The two sides agreed to build observation posts on either side of the mouth of the Galwan River, China's ambassador to India, Sun Weidong, told the Press Trust of India news agency on Tuesday.

Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said that during the June 6 meeting "both sides had agreed to respect and abide by the LAC and not undertake any activity to alter the status quo," but did not address whether they had agreed to observation posts.

Around midnight on June 15, soldiers attacked each other with rocks, clubs and their fists in the Galwan Valley, the deadliest violence between the two countries in 45 years.

Indian security officials said the fatalities were caused by severe injuries and exposure to subfreezing temperatures. China has not said whether it suffered any casualties in the clash.

World

Brazil signs deal to produce experimental virus vaccine

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)—The Brazilian government announced on Saturday an agreement with Oxford University and pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca to produce a promising coronavirus vaccine that is undergoing tests.

Brazilian Health Ministry authorities said at a news conference that the country will pay \$127 million and receive material to produce 30.4 million doses in two batches in December and January, which would allow it to quickly start inoculation efforts if the vaccine is certified to be safe and effective.

They said the total deal is for 100 million vaccines for a country of about 210 million residents. It will be produced by local vaccine maker Fiocruz.

Vijay Rangarajan, the British ambassador, said on Twitter that "the 30 million doses will be available in Brazil" and Fiocruz will "prepare for local production," without making reference to the promised additional 70 million doses. The British Embassy said in a statement that "the 70 million will come in a second moment," without giving more details.

Fiocruz said in statement that it still had to reach a



AP
Volunteer Wellington Goncalves, center, takes a break from sanitization duties to help contain the spread of the new coronavirus in an area occupied by squatters in a poor region of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Friday, June 26, 2020.

deal with AstraZeneca for the transfer of technology of the vaccine if it works. "After the production (of the shots), it will still be necessary (to follow) phases of registry and validation before a possible distribution," it said.

Fiocruz added it will be possibly responsible for producing the vaccine for the rest of Latin America.

The Brazilian government said the first to get the Oxford shot would be high-risk groups such as the elderly, people with comorbidities and health and security professionals.

Arnaldo Correia de Me-

deiros, secretary of health surveillance, said distribution will be fast because of Brazil's public health care system. "This country has extensive experience in extremely fast vaccination," he said.

British researchers started testing the experimental shot in May aiming to immunize more than 10,000 people, including older people and children. The vaccine is one of about a dozen in the early stages of human testing.

Brazil, where coronavirus infections are still on the rise, counts more than 1 million confirmed cases and more than 55,900 fatalities.

Hundreds of Israelis protest in Jerusalem against Netanyahu

JERUSALEM (AP)—Hundreds of Israelis protested Saturday evening against Benjamin Netanyahu outside his Jerusalem residence as the Israeli prime minister faces corruption charges.

The demonstration was fueled by the detention of seven protesters Friday who held a smaller rally against Netanyahu's continuation as premier despite being under indictment. The demonstrators held banners describing Netanyahu as "crime minister."

Among the seven detain-

ees was a former top Israeli air force general. On Saturday, Israeli police said the protest a day earlier was "illegal" because demonstrators blocked the roads.

Three of the protesters, including retired Brig. Gen. Amir Haskel, remained in detention for refusing the police's release terms and insisting on participating in Saturday's protest, Israeli media reported.

Last month, Netanyahu's trial on charges of fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes opened in a Jerusalem

court. It is scheduled to resume next month.

Netanyahu's new government took office last month, ending more than a year of political stalemate.

Under a power sharing deal, Netanyahu was permitted to remain as prime minister, while his rival, Benny Gantz, was named defense minister and alternate prime minister.

The two men have agreed to switch posts after 18 months, though many analysts do not expect the government to last that long.

Ethiopian monk said to be 114 years old survives coronavirus

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—An Ethiopian Orthodox monk whose family says he is 114 years old has survived the coronavirus.

Tilahun Woldemichael was discharged from a hospital on Thursday after almost three weeks. He received oxygen and dexamethasone, a cheap and widely available steroid that researchers in England have said reduced deaths by

up to one third in severely ill hospitalized patients.

Ethiopia's health minister has said the ministry recommends the emergency use of the drug for COVID-19 patients who require ventilation or oxygen.

Tilahun's grandson Biniam Leulseged said he has no birth certificate to prove the monk's age, but he showed a photo of him celebrating his

100th birthday.

"He was looking young back then, too," Biniam told The Associated Press on Saturday.

He said he was emotional when his grandfather was taken to the hospital but "I am very happy because we are together again."

Ethiopia has more than 5,200 confirmed cases of the virus.

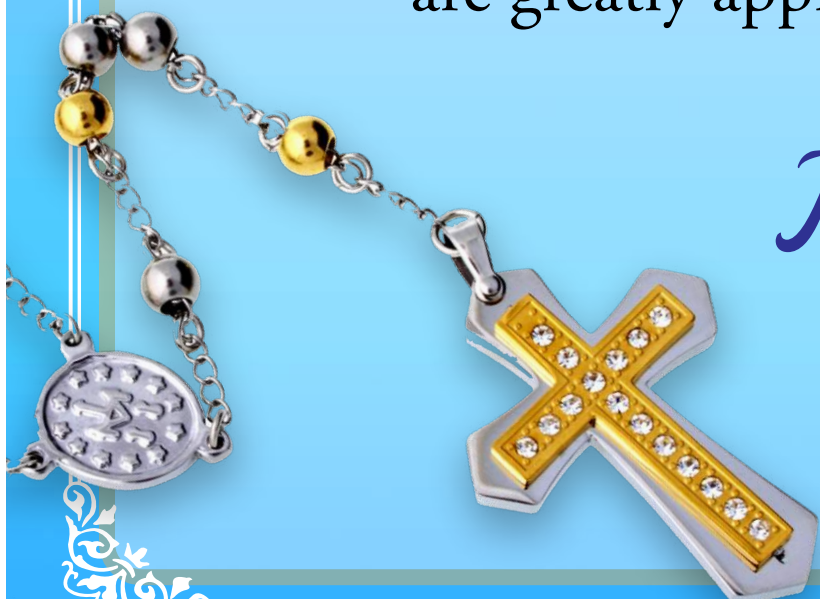
The family of

Peter Michael P. Tenorio (Mike)

is saddened to announce
that **Mike** passed away on the
evening of June 27, 2020 in
San Diego, California.

He was surrounded by those he loved.
Your prayers for him and his family
are greatly appreciated.

*Jacqueline G. Tenorio,
children, and family*



Health & Wellness

This advertorial
is sponsored by



Tan Siu Lin
Foundation

On Tuesday Nick Andrade, the energetic instructor of Basecamp Fitness in Santa Monica, California, switched up his class sign out.

Instead of slapping palms with guests as they exited, he announced, “Everybody hit the hand sanitizer!”

It’s a change he’s made to his coaching repertoire in the wake of news that coronavirus has hit the U.S.

“It’ll definitely be hard to pull that from my (routine), but we are going to hold back from encouraging high-fives for a while,” Andrade says. Basecamp Fitness this week also began advising members to wipe down their equipment post-workout, and is preparing to send a note with information on the gym’s deep-cleaning standards to members in light of coronavirus concerns. They’re not alone.

Gym members are getting coronavirus emails

This past week, gyms including Equinox, SoulCycle, Flywheel, 305 Fitness and Barry’s

Bootcamp have already sent emails to members about coronavirus prevention measures.

The verbiage varies, with some emphasizing “coronavirus” and others saying “healthy” in the subject line, but the messages are similar. “Stay home if you’re feeling sick,” a memo from SoulCycle writes.

“Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands” and “utilize the disinfectant wipes,” says an email blast from Equinox.

The fitness clubs share that they’re “increasing the frequency of deep cleans at our studios,” in the words of Flywheel and are “adding more cleaning and sanitizing materials” says 305 Fitness. Barry’s Bootcamp goes so far as to deliver this warning in a note to guests: “Avoid kissing, hugging, and the sharing of cups and water bottles.”

In sum: Gyms are cleaning more than ever, and are asking you to be mindful at their facilities.

Physician and public health consultant Lamar Hasbrouck has some tips about how to achieve the latter.

How to practice healthy gym habits

A public gym is “a petri dish,” says Hasbrouck. “They are really incubators: They’re warm, people are sweating, there’s bodily fluids, you’re breathing on things and coughing.” And so it’s important to stay vigilant during this flu season when many are concerned about contracting coronavirus.

Hasbrouck keeps repeating one word with respect to staying healthy at the gym: “Barrier.”

“People should put barriers between themselves and equipment that’s going to be touched all day everyday,” he says.

He recommends men and women consider long pants and shirts with sleeves (as opposed to tank tops) while working out. Why? This makes the chances of bad bacteria getting onto the skin and into mucus membranes (where viruses are introduced) as small as possible.

Another way to create a barrier: Use a towel when sitting on top of mats and machines, and have a different towel for wiping sweat from your face. Hasbrouck recommends keeping water bottles “close and closed.” Gloves are a

good idea, but make sure to sanitize them after a workout.

Speaking of sanitization: It’s crucial that cleansers contain at least 60% alcohol to be effective.

And it’s good etiquette to wipe down a machine before you use it to protect yourself and then after you’re done with it to help others.

And remember to wash your hands properly

Of course, “hand washing is the staple, for sure,” Hasbrouck says. Washing with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds is key before and after a workout. “And get your towels and stuff into the laundry,” he says.

He agrees with the trainer at Basecamp Fitness. “This is not the season for high-fiving,” says Hasbrouck. “It might be the season for fist pumping and elbowing.”

Enter trainer Andrade’s new exit line this week, delivered with the same verve as his high-five one once was.

“Throw your neighbor some knuckles, an elbow or a wink on the way out!” he says.

What’s gym etiquette during the coronavirus outbreak? Here’s how to stay healthy

By CARLY MALLENBAUM
TNS



What is contact tracing, and why is it important in fight against COVID-19?

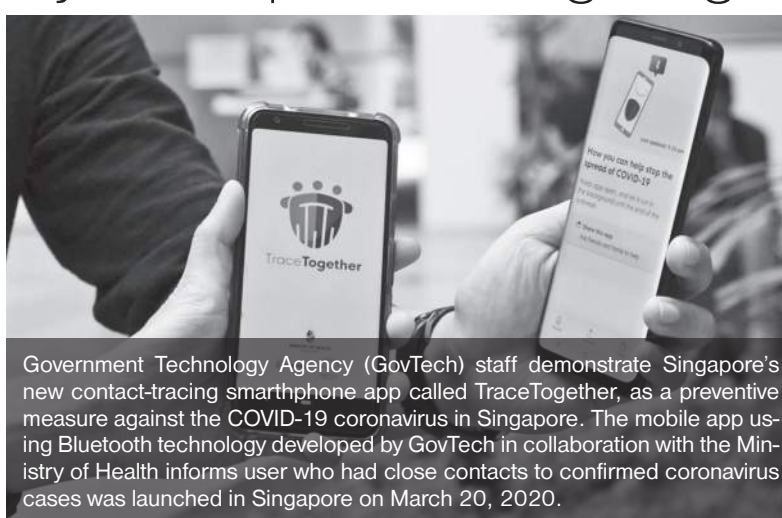
Contact tracing is one of those terms associated with the COVID-19 pandemic that has seemingly become a part of our everyday language. But it’s a public health strategy that’s been used for years to combat communicable diseases.

Contact tracing is the process of finding out who has recently been in close contact with a person infected with a virus, such as SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and reaching out to those people to let them know they may have been exposed and guide them on what to do next. In some cases, that may include self-isolating to prevent further spread.

Dr. Gregory Poland, a Mayo Clinic infectious diseases expert, explains why contact tracing is important in the fight against COVID-19.

“The whole idea, and this is really important in the beginning of an outbreak in order to contain the outbreak, is to understand who’s infected and then in broader and broader rings, trace who might have been exposed ? and therefore who might have been infected. If you can do that quickly and effectively, and efficiently, you can dramatically decrease the impact of an epidemic or pandemic,” says Dr. Poland.

Dr. Poland says this time-tested



Government Technology Agency (GovTech) staff demonstrate Singapore’s new contact-tracing smartphone app called TraceTogether, as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 coronavirus in Singapore. The mobile app using Bluetooth technology developed by GovTech in collaboration with the Ministry of Health informs user who had close contacts to confirmed coronavirus cases was launched in Singapore on March 20, 2020.

public health strategy is standard with infectious diseases. It was used during the Ebola outbreak in 2014 and the severe acute respiratory syndrome outbreak in 2003.

Mayo Clinic recently established a system that integrates medical record data with nonclinical information and contact tracing resources to identify COVID-19 exposures within hours. (Mayo Clinic News Network)

For the latest updates on the COVID-19 pandemic, check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. For more information and COVID-19 coverage, go to the Mayo Clinic News Network and mayoclinic.org.

PHOTO BY CATHERINE LAI/APR VIA GETTY IMAGES/TNS

Life & Style

NYC judge rejects Trump family effort to halt tell-all book

WASHINGTON (AP)—A New York City judge on Thursday dismissed a claim by Donald Trump's brother that sought to halt the publication of a tell-all book by the president's niece, saying the court lacked jurisdiction in the case.

Surrogates Court Judge Peter Kelly said the claims were not appropriate for his court, where disputes over estate matters are settled.

The motion filed earlier this week sought an injunction to prevent Mary Trump and the book's publisher, Simon & Schuster, from releasing it, as scheduled, in July.

Mary Trump is the daughter of Fred Trump Jr., the president's elder brother, who died in 1981. An online description of her book, "Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's

Most Dangerous Man," says it reveals "a nightmare of traumas, destructive relationships, and a tragic combination of neglect and abuse."

Robert Trump's lawyers filed court papers saying that Mary Trump and others had signed a settlement agreement that would prohibit her from writing the book. They said the deal included a "substantial financial settlement" for

Mary Trump.

The settlement nearly two decades ago included a confidentiality clause explicitly saying they would not "publish any account concerning the litigation or their relationship," unless they all agreed, the court papers said.

Published accounts of the book's contents say it contains an "insider's perspective" of "countless holiday meals

and family interactions and family events, along with personal observations by Mary Trump, a psychologist, about her "supposedly toxic family,"

according to the court papers.

The agreement related to the will of Donald Trump's father, New York real estate developer Fred Trump.

Tabloid's lawyers seek to get Johnny Depp lawsuit thrown out

LONDON (AP)—Lawyers for British tabloid The Sun urged a U.K. judge on Thursday to throw out Johnny Depp's libel claim against the paper because the film star allegedly failed to disclose evidence relating to his drug use.

Depp is suing the newspaper's publisher, News Group Newspapers, and Executive Editor Dan Wootton over a 2018 article claiming the actor was violent and abusive to his ex-wife Amber Heard.

The trial is due to open at the High Court in London on July 7. At a preliminary hearing on Thursday, The Sun's lawyers argued the case should be

dismissed because Depp had failed to disclose text messages showing that he tried to buy "MDMA and other narcotics" while he was in Australia with Heard in 2015.

The newspaper's lawyer, Adam Wolanski, said withholding the texts was a breach of a previous court order requiring Depp to provide all documents from separate libel proceedings against Heard in the United States.

"There is a real risk that the claimant has failed to provide proper disclosure to the defendants, and that the defendants cannot have a fair trial," he said.

The Dixie Chicks officially change their name to The Chicks

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Grammy-winning country group The Dixie Chicks have dropped the word Dixie from their name, now going by The Chicks.

The band's social media accounts and website were changed on Thursday to the refer to the new name for the band, which is made up of Martie Maguire, Natalie Maines and Emily Strayer. The band also recognized that the name was already in use by a band in New Zealand.

"A sincere and heartfelt thank you goes out to 'The Chicks' of NZ for their gracious gesture in allowing us to share their name. We are honored to co-exist together in the world with these



In this Feb. 11, 2007 file photo, musicians Emily Robison, left, Natalie Maines, center, and Martie Maguire of the group The Dixie Chicks pose with their awards for song of the year, for record of the year, for album of the year, for best country album, and for best country performance at the 49th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

exceptionally talented sisters," the band said in a statement.

The move follows a decision by country group Lady Antebellum to change to Lady A after acknowledging the word's association to slavery. A statement on The Chicks' website said "We want to meet this moment." The term Dixie refers to Southern U.S. states, especially those that belonged to the Confederacy.

The Chicks, who are releasing their first new album in 14 years next month, also released a new video for their new song, "March March" that features videos and images from the recent Black Lives Matter rallies.

Acclaimed Russian director convicted but not sent to prison

MOSCOW (AP)—A Moscow judge convicted an acclaimed Russian theater director of embezzling state funds and imposed a three-year suspended sentence Friday in a case widely seen as politically motivated.

Kirill Serebrennikov, 50, one of the most prominent theater and film directors in

Russia, and his associates were found guilty of fraud and embezzling 129 million rubles (over \$1.8 million) of state funding for a theater project.

The judge, saying that "reformation is possible without a real (prison) term," gave Serebrennikov and two other defendants suspended sentences, fines and ordered them

to repay the embezzled funds. Prosecutors had requested a 6-year prison term for Serebrennikov.

A fourth defendant, former government official Sophia Apfelbaum, was convicted of negligence and fined; the fine was immediately lifted because of a statute of limitations.

The funds were for stag-

ing several productions, and investigators initially alleged that the director and his associates stole money through a show that never saw the light of day. In fact, the production was staged to critical acclaim. The investigators later withdrew their claim, and have not since clarified where they believe money was stolen from.

St. Louis rapper Huey killed in shooting in Missouri

KINLOCH, Mo. (AP)—A St. Louis rapper who went by the stage name Huey was killed in a shooting that also wounded another man, authorities say.

St. Louis County police said in a news release that the shooting happened just before 11 p.m. Thursday in Kinloch.

Police identified the man who was killed as 32-year-old Lawrence Franks Jr., known by fans as Huey. The Kinloch native was best known in the rap community for his 2006 debut single, "Pop, Lock & Drop It. It eventually reached

the No. 6 spot on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. The music video has more than 50 million hits on YouTube.

A 21-year-old man who was wounded in the shooting remained hospitalized Friday with non-life threatening injuries.

Police said in a news release that detectives believe as many as 10 other people were there when the shooting happened.

Police released no details about how the shooting unfolded or a possible motive. They also have not said whether they have any suspects.

Couple continues drifting after birth of surprise baby

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my husband since 2009. In 2017 we had a surprise baby, who is now 2 years and 9 months old.

Connecting as a couple was getting difficult before the pregnancy, but now that we have this cute, extremely energetic child, we don't connect at all. If I don't ask for a kiss, I don't get one. If I don't ask for sex, it would never happen. I have to initiate everything.

I have mentioned this issue many times but nothing changes. The only conversation he wants to have is about the news or what he did at work. If I try to talk about anything else, he gives me brief answers and moves to a different subject. I'm bored in this marriage and tired of not getting any kind of romance at all. Help!

ROOMMATE OR ROMANCE?

DEAR R. OR R.: Your husband may be as overwhelmed by parenthood as you are, and concerned about providing for this "surprise" baby, which is why he has distanced himself. Your relationship could also have been winding down before your pregnancy happened. I am not sure a regularly scheduled date night can bring you two back in sync, but a licensed marriage and family therapist may be able to reopen the lines of communication between you.

DEAR ABBY: I am hoping for advice regarding my relationship with my father and his children. I met my dad and his much younger second family when I was 24. I have never felt close to any of them, and 10 years later, nothing has changed.

Dad lives across the country and is now terminal because of his alcoholism. My siblings are telling me I need to see him before he dies. I don't feel an obligation to do that, but I also feel guilty for not feeling bad.

I don't feel much connection with my siblings either, and am pretty sure that once my father passes, communication will cease completely. Should I reach out and try to rekindle a relationship before he passes? Do I owe him that?

UNCERTAIN IN MAINE

DEAR UNCERTAIN: It may be a little late to rekindle a relationship with your father, who was absent during such a large chunk of your life. This may be the reason you aren't grieving his approaching death. That said, if there is anything you feel you might like to say to your father that has not been said — and I'll bet there is plenty — it might be in your own best interests to have a final conversation or two with him. It's not that you owe it to him; you owe it to yourself.

DEAR ABBY: My niece is being married very soon. I wasn't invited to her originally planned church wedding, but

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



due to the coronavirus, she's now doing a Zoom wedding, and I have received an electronic invitation. Should I send her a wedding gift or is it not required/expected since we weren't included in the original wedding plans?

TIMELY DILEMMA IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR T.D.: If you want to maintain a relationship with your niece, send her a gift with a sweet note wishing her a lifetime of happiness with her new spouse. If not, then decline.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

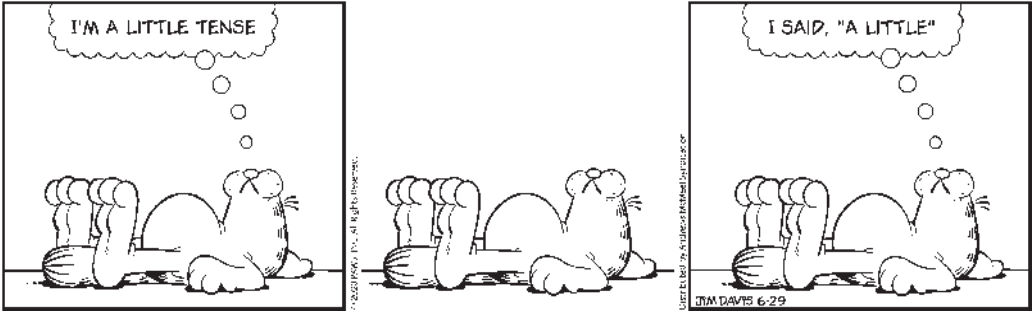
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



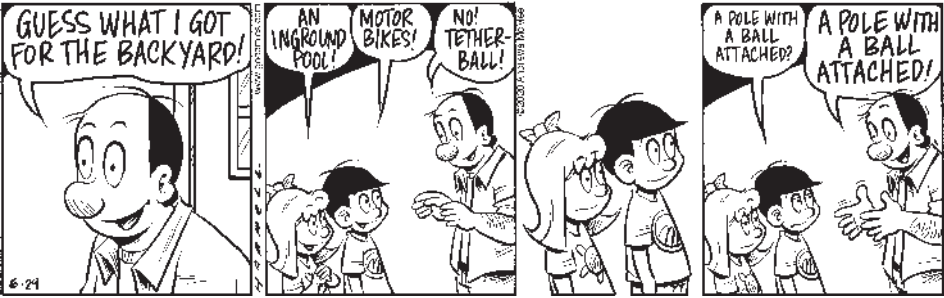
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Venomous viper 4 Daub 9 Swab the deck 12 "Evita" role 13 Therefore 14 Get older 15 Fragrant flowers 17 Irish actor Stephen 18 Mouths (Lat.) 19 More spine-tingling 21 Golden Arches burger 24 Unforeseen problem 25 Mound stat 26 Last letter in London 28 Metal waste 31 Mend a sock 33 "Mayday!" 35 Writer Wiesel 36 "The — in sight"

DOWN 1 German cry 2 Bashful 3 Pod dweller 4 Australian red wine 5 Threats 6 Tolkien creature 7 Liniment targets 8 Transmit again 9 Garden flowers 10 Curved molding 11 Bosc, for one 16 URL suffix 20 Exceptional 21 Eliot's "Adam —" 22 Persia, today 23 Fragrant flowers 27 100 cts. 29 China (Pref.) 30 Actor Connery 32 At hand 34 Deems appropriate 37 Riyadh residents 39 Knuckle-heads 42 Clog-cleaning brand 44 Neither Rep. nor Dem. 45 Rosary component 46 Fashion magazine 50 Bear hair — 51 Jima 52 Cover 53 Fr. holy woman

Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 06/29

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Camila Mendes, 26; Nicole Scherzinger, 42; Melora Hardin, 53; Gary Busey, 76.

Happy Birthday: Don't wait for things to come to you; be the one to initiate what you want to do. Anger won't solve anything, but being productive and setting expectations will help you excel. Go after your dreams and aspirations, and be willing to invest in yourself. Add to your skills, licenses, grants and whatever else it takes to reach your goal. Your numbers are 5, 13, 17, 22, 29, 35, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Clear the air, stick to facts and don't overreact. Keeping the peace will help resolve issues quickly and encourage you to work in conjunction with the people you deal with virtually or otherwise on a regular basis. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You've got the right idea, so don't let anyone make you feel incompetent. Your ability to take hold of a situation and idea and carry it through to fruition will make a lasting impression on someone influential. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take hold of whatever situation you encounter, and make it work to your advantage. Elbow grease and muscle, along with tenacity and desire, will help you get your way and get things done. Personal rewards are within reach. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Expand your interests and your mind. What you learn and experience will help you put together the pieces that will lead to success. Don't let an emotional incident stand between you and

what you want to achieve. Don't run away from change. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Get physical. Regardless of your current condition, it's a good idea to up your game. Staying fit will energize you in all aspects of life. Become the driving force who sets the standard in your family or circle. Romance is favored. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): An experience you encounter will be enlightening and prompt you to make adjustments to the way you live. Viewing alternative lifestyles and practices will encourage you to moderate your spending, eating and daily routine closely. An unexpected change looks promising. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotional matters will surface if uncertainty prevails. Consider what you are up against, and come up with a practical application that will help remedy further disruptions. Straightforward conversations will eliminate false assumptions. Personal gain and improvement are encouraged. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Go on a learning excursion. Open your mind to new ideas and concepts that can help you bring about personal change. An optimistic outlook coupled with a desire to try something new will lead you in an exciting direction. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Putter around the house. Take care of unfinished projects. Concentrate on the projects that will enhance your life. Physical improvement will boost your ego, and romance will enhance a meaningful relationship. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Work to make your home a happier environment. The changes you conduct in unison with others will bring you closer together. Use your energy wisely, and you will avoid a mishap. Added discipline will get you where you want to go. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't try to take on the world. You'll get the most back if you stick to a basic plan that is geared toward better emotional, mental and physical health. A friendly environment will encourage others to compromise and pitch in and help. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll gain insight into what others want. Listen and respond with suggestions that will help you gain the support you need to put your plans in motion. An opportunity is heading your way, and a change will spice up your life. ***

Birthday Baby: You are smart, charming and original. You are ambitious and sensitive. Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

9			2				1				
		3	6		5	2					
	8			1				6			
	1		5		7			9			
3		6		9			4			5	
	5		2		3			8			
	3			7				5			
		7	4		1	6					
2				5						3	

Difficulty Level ★

6/29

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

2	5	9	8	1	4	6	7	3
3	6	1	5	2	7	9	8	4
4	8	7	6	9	3	2	1	5
7	2	4	9	6	8	5	3	1
8	9	3	7	5	1	4	2	6
6	1	5	4	3	2	8	9	7
9	3	8	1	4	6	7	5	2
5	4	2	3	7	9	1	6	8
1	7	6	2	8	5	3	4	9

Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BOSONS AND LEPTONS

Solution: 8 letters

S C S N O M S A L P C A R R Y
P T I N U M B E R N A T H S I
E H A T O Y N O I M R E F G E
L S O T E O G E P E I K A L L
E N A N I N T R B S D R A U C
C O M P O S I T E O D E A O U
T Y D Y N I N T K L N S P C N
R R N I E N D S I E S E I M I
I A E D L T E Y C O O P E R S
C B I P P A T G T S S C N N O
N O Y H C A T F R E H R O S T
K O A O S U I O O A G E N E O
M L T T A U S R N R H U G S P
F S N O S O B I S P C C A A E
M U O N R S C A L A R E M G S

© 2000 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 6/29

Anyon, Atoms, Baryons, Bose, Bosons, Carry, Charged, Composite, Cooper, Dilaton, Dirac, Einstein, Electric, Electrons, Energy, Fermion, Force, Gases, Gauge, Gluon, Half, Isotopes, Kaon, Kinetic, Koids, Magnon, Mechanic, Mesons, Muon, Nath, Nuclei, Number, Pairs, Paul, Pheons, Phonons, Photon, Pion, Plasmons, Roton, Satyendra, Scalar, Spin, Statistics, Tachyon, Taus

Last Friday's Answer: Good Morning
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Lakers, Clippers star in NBA twinbill



NEW YORK (AP)—The deals are done. The NBA is coming back. The season will resume on July 30 at Disney's ESPN Wide World of Sports complex in Florida.

The NBA announced its "opening night" schedule on Friday, providing fans with what should be a pair of entertaining matchups right off the bat: the Utah Jazz versus the New Orleans Pelicans in the first game and the Los Angeles Clippers against the Los Angeles Lakers in the second game.

Here are the things to know about the restarted season:

Race for 8

There are six teams in the race for the No. 8 seed in the Western Conference—Memphis, Portland, New Orleans, Sacramento, San Antonio and Phoenix. (Technically, Dallas is also in that race, though the Mavericks need only one win and one Memphis loss to clinch no worse than the No. 7 spot.)

There are seven games where those six teams will go head-to-head, including four featuring the Pelicans—who play Sacramento twice, Memphis once and San Antonio once. The other games: Sacramento vs. San Antonio, Memphis vs. San Antonio and Portland vs. Memphis.

Phoenix doesn't play any of the other five teams in the race for eighth.

The Grizzlies start with a 3 1/2-game lead over Portland, New Orleans and Sacramento, along with a four-game edge on San Antonio. Unless the Grizzlies open up space on all four of those clubs, it seems likely that there will be a best-of-two play-in series for the final spot in the West playoffs and a probable first-round matchup with LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers.

The play-in games will take place if the ninth-place team in either conference is within four games of eighth when the seeding round ends.

In the East, it's a bit simpler. No. 7 Brooklyn is six games ahead of Washington and No. 8 Orlando is 5-1/2 games clear of the Wizards in the race to clinch a berth and avoid a play-in series. None of those teams can move past the No. 7 spot on the East bracket.

Magic numbers

Milwaukee needs a combination of two wins or Toronto losses to clinch the No. 1 seed in the East. The Lakers need a combination of three wins or Los Angeles Clippers losses to clinch the No. 1 spot out West.

Denver also has a mathematical chance at the No. 1 seed out West—but would



In this March 8, 2020 file photo, Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) drives against the Los Angeles Clippers' Kawhi Leonard during the second quarter of an NBA game at STAPLES Center in Los Angeles, CA.

need to go 8-0 and have the Lakers go 0-8 for that to happen.

Most of the races at Disney will be for seeding. Milwaukee cannot finish lower than No. 2 in the East and Toronto needs only one win to be assured of a top-four seed. The West can still see some shakeups, with four games separating second place from sixth place and only 2 1/2 games separating fourth place from seventh.

Heat check

Miami had a league-high eight games remaining against the eight teams that didn't qualify for the Disney restart.

Now the Heat will have a fight on their hands just to hang onto the No. 4 spot in the East.

Miami plays Boston, Denver, Indiana twice, Milwaukee, Oklahoma City, Toronto and Phoenix in the seeding games. That schedule ranks harder than Indiana's or Philadelphia's—the Pacers and 76ers both will head to Disney two games behind the Heat in the East standings.

Orlando and the Lakers both saw seven games against the eight Disney-non-qualifiers canceled, tied for second-most in the league behind Miami. Memphis had the fewest such games lost, with just one—a matchup against New York.

Home on the road

All 22 teams will be staying at the Disney campus for the

rest of their seasons. Yes, that includes the Orlando Magic—whose home arena is about 20 miles from Disney World.

The Magic simply see it as doing their part to make the restart happen.

"We appreciate the leadership of NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, our longtime partner, Disney, and our local leaders in this unprecedented time," Orlando Magic CEO Alex Martins said. "We look forward to providing assistance as needed in restarting the NBA season in Orlando, while using our collective platform to drive meaningful social impact."

Speaking of road

Philadelphia was the NBA's best home team this season, going 29-2—on pace to be the second-best home record in a season in franchise history. The 1949-50 Syracuse Nationals were better, going 36-2 at the State Fair Coliseum in the franchise's inaugural season.

Problem is, the 76ers won't be playing in Philly again until next season.

Philadelphia went just 10-24 on the road in the regular season, the second-worst road mark of the 22 teams that will be playing at Disney. Only Washington (8-24) was worse.

If the 76ers are going to go deep in these playoffs, they'll need to figure out how to win

without the raucous Wells Fargo Center advantage.

They will be missed

Milwaukee has the NBA's best record, and one of the reasons the Bucks hold that mark right now is because of how good they were against the eight teams (Charlotte, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Atlanta, New York, Minnesota and Golden State) that didn't qualify for the Disney restart.

The Bucks were 22-0 against those eight teams -- one of three NBA teams to go unbeaten against that group. Oklahoma City was 15-0 and the Lakers were 12-0. Toronto and Boston were both 19-1 and Utah was 15-1.

Only one remaining team had a losing record against those eight clubs: San Antonio went 7-8.

Laker break

The schedule means that the Lakers won't play a back-to-back-to-back after all.

The Lakers would have played home games on April 7, 8 and 9 against Golden State, Chicago and the Clippers—the last of those coming because a game that was scheduled to be played shortly after Kobe Bryant's death was moved until later in the season.

Hello, again

For 26 players on the rosters of the 22 teams, Disney is going

to look familiar. They played there in college.

The Disney campus plays host to the Orlando Invitational over Thanksgiving, and some alumni of that event are headed back there now for NBA contests. Among them: Heat teammates Jimmy Butler (Marquette, 2009) and Kelly Olynyk (Gonzaga, 2012), Portland's Zach Collins (Gonzaga, 2016), Washington's Rui Hachimura (Gonzaga, 2016), Milwaukee's Khris Middleton (Texas A&M, 2010), Indiana's Edmond Sumner (Xavier, 2015), Phoenix's Kelly Oubre Jr. (Kansas, 2014) and Boston's Marcus Smart (Oklahoma State, 2013).

And lest we forget, the Lopez brothers—Milwaukee teammates Brook Lopez and Robin Lopez—are huge Disney fans, and have made their affinity for the place very well-known in recent weeks.

No 3's record

For the first time in eight seasons, the league record for total 3-pointers made won't get broken.

It was on pace to be smashed. NBA teams have combined for 23,560 3-pointers made so far this season, which is already the fourth-most of any season in league history. The league was on pace for 29,844 3-pointers, which is 1,889 more than the record of 27,955

set last season.

State of basketball

Florida—the Sunshine State—will be the epicenter of basketball this summer.

While the NBA is headed to Disney, the WNBA season is also scheduled to begin next month and be headquartered in Bradenton, Florida. That's about 100 miles from where the NBA will be playing.

The WNBA plan is for its players to be housed at the IMG Academy, with games to be played at the nearby Feld Entertainment Center.

16 of 302 tested positive

The NBA and its players association announced that 16 of the 302 players tested for COVID-19 were positive. That's 5.3 percent of the league's players.

The players who tested positive will remain in self-isolation in compliance with public health protocols. They will rejoin their teams for workouts when cleared by a physician.

Those who tested positive were not disclosed and there was no data for team staffers and coaches from the NBA. Indiana Pacers guard Malcolm Brogdon said earlier this week he tested positive.

The testing was done June 23, per the NBA, as players and teams approach time to report to training camps. Players are required to take tests every other day.

Individual workouts are scheduled to begin in home markets beginning July 1 and teams can arrive in Florida on July 7. There will be three scrimmages, and training camp will run from July 9-29.

Customized jerseys

When the NBA attempts to resume its season next month, the league will allow players to have a say in customizing their jerseys.

Players, according to reports, will be able to replace the last name on their jerseys with a statement on social justice.

The NBA Players Association reportedly sent initial details of the plan to players on Saturday night, and is currently working with both the league and Nike on how to implement it.

Players have been extremely vocal about social justice issues in recent weeks, stemming from George Floyd's death in Minneapolis police custody in May. Several players, led most notably by Kyrie Irving, even advocated that they not play in Florida due to the Black Lives Matter movement—as doing so could distract from the progress that has been made.

Yankees vs Nationals in DC on opening day



NEW YORK
(AP)—Gerrit Cole could

make his New York Yankees debut in a tasty opening-day treat for fans, facing Juan Soto and World Series champion Washington at Nationals Park.

The Yankees and Nationals are set meet when the virus-delayed season begins next month, a person familiar with the game told The Associated Press on Saturday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because there hasn't been an official announcement.

The New York Post first reported the matchup.

MLB will start a 60-game season on July 23 or 24. The schedule is still being worked out -- there could be a game or two on the first day of play, or a full slate.

Cole started the previous game played at Nationals Park. He pitched the Houston Astros past the Nationals 7-1 last October for a 3-2 edge in the World Series.

Howie Kendrick, Anthony Rendon and the Nationals won the last two games to earn their first championship. Max Scherzer started Game 7 and fellow ace Stephen Strasburg was the World Series MVP, and either of them could start on opening day.

Cole signed a \$324 million, nine-year contract with the Yankees as a free agent. Rendon got a \$245 million, seven-year contract with the Los Angeles Angels.

The Yankees and Nationals met twice this year, including New York's 6-3 win on March 12 on the final day before MLB stopped spring training because of the virus outbreak.

Players will begin reporting to summer training camp on Wednesday—Gleyber Torres, DJ LeMahieu and their New York teammates will work out at Yankee Stadium while Trea Turner, Patrick Corbin and Washington will train at Nationals Park.

The Yankees are hopeful that slugger Aaron Judge has fully recovered from a rib injury that bothered him during spring training in Florida.

Longtime Nationals star Ryan Zimmerman wrote this week in a diary entry for The Associated Press that he's weighing his options with the virus looming.

"I'm still deciding whether to play," he said. "When it comes down to it, it's a decision not just for me, but for my family as well."

"I have a 3-week-old baby. My mother has multiple sclerosis and is super high-risk; if I end up playing, I can pretty much throw out the idea of seeing her until weeks after the season is over," he said.



AP
In this Feb. 29, 2020 file photo, New York Yankees' Gerrit Cole warms up before a spring training baseball game against the Detroit Tigers in Tampa, Fla.

No paychecks for 11 big leaguers

Grant Dayton will notice one glaring absence this season after he reports to the Atlanta Braves: his twice-a-month salary.

He is among 11 major

leaguers whose prorated pay for the abbreviated 60-game season amounts to less than the \$286,500 advance already received by the 32-year-old left-hander.

"It's going to be weird not getting a paycheck," he said Friday,

"but we already got paid."

Dayton gave up the 6,776th and final home run of last season's record total, to the New York Mets' Dominic Smith. To resume preparation for the new season he will drive Monday from his home in Winter

Haven, Florida, to Atlanta with wife Cori, 2 1/2-year-old son Decker and nearly 6-month-old Nolan for Braves' workouts at Truist Park.

After opening day was postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic, Major League

Mickelson added to field in a US Open without qualifying

NEW YORK (AP)—The USGA is leaning a little more on the world ranking and a lot more on tournament results over the next two months to fill the 144-man field for a U.S. Open that will be without open qualifying for the first time in nearly a century.

The exemption categories announced Thursday include a spot for Phil Mickelson.

A runner-up six times in the only major Lefty hasn't won, the most devastating was in 2006 at Winged Foot, just north of New York City, where the U.S. Open is set to return Sept. 17-20.

The COVID-19 pandemic that forced the U.S. Open to move from June also cost the championship its identity of being open to all. Open qualifying wasn't possible for two stages at nearly 120 courses across the country and into Canada, England and Japan.

The idea was to create a field that reflected a typical U.S. Open -- the elite and the aspiring, from every conti-

nent in golf, pros and amateurs. And while it won't be 36 holes of qualifying, it still comes down to playing well.

"We are excited that players will still have an opportunity to earn a place in the field," said John Bodenhamer, senior managing director of USGA championships.

The top 70 from the world ranking on March 15 are exempt. Along with increasing that category by 10 spots, the USGA chose to use the last ranking before it was frozen during the shutdown in golf worldwide. That helps European Tour players, such as Eddie Pepperell and Robert MacIntyre, who are not able to play until July 9—a month after the PGA Tour resumed with strong fields and big ranking points.

That also momentarily leaves out Daniel Berger, who went from outside the top 100 to No. 31 with his victory against a stacked field at Colonial. But the USGA

will use the Aug. 23 ranking —after the first FedEx Cup playoff event—as its reserve list, and about seven spots are expected to come from there.

Mickelson was No. 61 when the ranking was frozen, and now is at No. 66. Mickelson, outspoken about the USGA and how it sets up U.S. Open courses, said in February that he would not ask for a special exemption if he was not otherwise eligible. With his five majors and Hall of Fame career—not to mention his legacy of silver medals in the U.S. Open—Mickelson likely would have received at least one exemption.

Now he won't have to worry about that. In 2006, Mickelson had a one-shot lead playing the 18th hole when he drove wildly to the left and tried to hit 3-iron over a tree. He hit the tree, hit into a plugged lie in the bunker and made double bogey to finish one shot behind Geoff Ogilvy.

"That worked out great, to be able to know that I have a chance to go back to Winged Foot and give it another shot," Mickelson said at the Travelers Championship. "As long as I'm playing well enough to compete to earn my way into the field, then I want to play and keep trying to win that tournament."

Bodenhamer said the 36-hole qualifier in England typically is the strongest, along with one in Ohio after the Memorial. Thus, 10 spots will be awarded to the leading 10 players (not already eligible) from a separate points list of the opening five tournaments on the European Tour's U.K. swing when its schedule resumes.

The Korn Ferry Tour also gets 10 spots—five from this season's points list through the Portland Open, and then a special points list of three events that typically comprise the Korn Ferry Tour Finals. The leading five players from that list also get into Winged Foot.

Baseball and the players' association agreed March 26 to a deal that called for teams to advance \$170 million in salaries over the first 60 days of the season.

Others who won't get paychecks because of lower prorated salaries are Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Jimmy Nelson and New York Yankees reliever Jonathan Holder (\$277,778 each), Pittsburgh infielder Erik Gonzalez and Minnesota pitcher Matt Wisler (\$268,519 apiece), Philadelphia catcher Andrew Knapp (\$262,943), Chicago Cubs pitcher Jharel Cotton (\$237,037), pitchers Collin McHugh of Boston, Ross Stripling of the Dodgers and Jesse Hahn of Kansas City (\$222,222 each) and Milwaukee pitcher Freddy Peralta (\$575,200).

"My first reaction was, wow, if we don't have any games this year, I'm going to get paid the same amount that Freddie Freeman's getting paid, so that's pretty cool," Dayton said in a reference to his teammate, a four-time All-Star first baseman with a \$22 million salary that was cut to about \$8.15 million. "I knew that there was going to be a point that if we resume games, I wouldn't get paid. And I was OK with that because we still received significant amounts of money and we're fine."

Each of the roughly 480 players with so-called "straight" contracts that call for a single salary received \$286,500. The 769 players with "split" contracts that have a lower salary in the minor leagues—generally a younger group not yet eligible for arbitration—got either \$16,500, \$30,000 or \$60,000, depending on their minor league pay level.

Dayton, who has spent parts of three seasons in the majors, has a \$655,000, one-year contract. His prorated salary for the short season will be \$242,593, assuming the contagion does not cause more games to be canceled.

The group won't have to return any cash because the March deal states "in the event there is a 2020 championship season, any amounts advanced to individual players that cannot be recouped by clubs via payroll deduction during the 2020 season for any reason shall be reimbursed to clubs from the International Tax Fund at the conclusion of the 2020 season."

Teams talking to Kap's friends, associates



NEW YORK—Free-agent quarterback Colin Kaepernick still doesn't have an NFL job, but that could change soon.

NFL Media's Mike Garafolo reported Friday, citing sources, that interested NFL teams are talking to Kaepernick's friends and people associated with him.

Kaepernick hasn't played in the NFL since Jan. 1, 2017. During the 2016 season, he first took a seat, and then knelt, during the national anthem to bring attention to racial and social injustices, and police brutality.

After the 2016 season, new 49ers general manager John Lynch and coach Kyle Shanahan told Kaepernick they planned

to release him, so instead, he opted out of his contract.

Kaepernick was supposed to work out for NFL teams at the Atlanta Falcons facility, but after a disagreement over media's access to the session, Kaepernick moved the workout to an Atlanta area high school.

Despite looking good in the session, Kaepernick wasn't offered a contract by any NFL team. But things could be changing, according to Garafolo.

"Teams are circling around here getting closer, I believe, certainly closer than they've been in recent years," Garafolo said Friday on NFL Network (H/T NFL.com). "Now you might say why not just go directly to Kaepernick, go

directly to his agent? Why do you have to play this game where you're working the periphery—just more of the same? That would be a fair point. My understanding, at least to explain it from a team's perspective, is they're still doing their homework, still doing their research. When they get to the point where they're confident enough that they think they can work out a contract, that's when there'll be direct communication with the agent. But for now... we all see more positive signs that Kaepernick could be back in the league soon."

Two weeks ago, Los Angeles Chargers coach Anthony Lynn stated that Kaepernick

is on the team's workout list. With team facilities shut down due to the coronavirus pandemic, it's unclear when the Chargers might be able to bring Kaepernick in.

Gase hopes unhappy Adams stays with Jets

Adam Gase still absolutely envisions Jamal Adams as a member of the New York Jets this season.

Plain and simple.

That's despite the star safety's trade request, all of Adams' headline-grabbing social media posts—and the rumors and reports that have dominated the last several weeks of the offseason.

"Yes," Gase said Friday during a conference call, "I

want Jamal on our team."

The 24-year-old Adams is in a contract standoff with the Jets that took its most uncertain turn last week when he asked the team to deal him. He also told a fan in a comment on Instagram that "maybe it's time to move on," and appeared to be saying goodbye to friend and teammate Marcus Maye in another post.

While Adams appears to be closing the door on ever walking through the doors at the Jets' facility again, the team currently has no plans to trade him. Adams wants an extension, but he is under contract this season and next—and New York could potentially use the franchise tag on him in 2022. So, the Jets don't

feel obligated to redo Adams' rookie deal right now.

And that has led to the friction between Adams and the team.

"This is a tough part of the business, when one of your best players is working through things with our organization," Gase said. "We've got to figure out a way to get to a good place, which will get him back, in the right spot and ready to go."

Gase was asked a few times about Adams during his 20-minute call with reporters, but the coach wouldn't discuss whether he has spoken directly to the two-time Pro Bowl selection or what the team's internal conversations have been like regarding the situation.

TUDELA

From Page 20

"Exercise has made me become more organized, helped me make better decisions, and motivated me to take on new challenges in life," she said. "Thank you to my Gold's Gym Saipan Family for your non-stop motivations."

According to Gold's Gym Saipan general manager Tyce Mister, 49 challengers began the 12-week transformation challenge journey and 26 completed it. As a group, the 26 challengers lost over 315 lbs. This is an average of 12.2 lbs

per person and 11.5 of that was fat body mass. The estimated decrease in percentage body fat averaged a 4.2% drop.

"This year's Challenge was even more challenging because of the pandemic, but it didn't even phase the challengers. I'm impressed by the dedication, commitment and enthusiasm of this year's challengers despite the restrictions," Mister said.

National Academy of Sports Medicine-certified personal trainer Aaron Tomokane hosted the boot camp during the challenge and was impressed with the participants' transformation.

transformation.

"This is a transformation challenge and not a weight loss competition. We want everyone to be safe. We encourage body fat loss when necessary to be healthier, but we want to see lean body mass (muscle) either maintained or even increased as part of the transformation challenge. It is very difficult to lose Fat Body Mass and at the same time maintain or even gain Lean Body Mass." Impressively, there were seven challengers who did just that," Tomokane said.

Meanwhile, other winners (Top 3) were Yanek Melo and

Sheila Villanueva (18 to 29 age group); Chutima Borja, Elizabeth Camacho, and Reydamelia Calibo (women's 30 to 39); Shielane Seno and Jeanne Rayphand (women's over 50); Carl Francisco, Jonathan Sugatan, and Reyel Quezon (men's 18 to 29); Jeffrey Bahillo, Joseph Deleon Guerrero, and Michael Pabalan (men's 30 to 39); and Steven Sahagon (men's over 50).

Francisco said the keys to his success is learning and helping others.

"I'm getting information and workout routines with what Gold's Gym Saipan pro-

vided on our boot camp training every Saturday. I want to make sure that each exercise will be kept in my mind to share it with my friends and others to help them be successful in their goals," he said.

For those who did not complete the challenge, Mister encouraged them to stay positive.

"There are often insurmountable obstacles and we know not everyone has been able to follow through with the challenge. Don't be hard on yourself, let's get up, gently brush off the dust, and start heading in the right direction one step at a time," the Gold's

Gym Saipan GM said.

He further challenges participants and the community. "With the extra challenges we've seen this year it really emphasizes the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Our challengers have led the way in creating healthy habits and demonstrating an active lifestyle. I encourage this year's challenge participants to continue sharing with their family and friends their new, fun, and creative ways for a healthy lifestyle. Gold's Gym Saipan is here to support the community in achieving their goals." (*Saipan Tribune*)

COACHES

From Page 20

them stick with the team, Koo said he was inspired by NMIFA president Jerry Tan and Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong head Raymond Tan.

"They have so much love for soccer and believe that these kids have potential. They put their heart into the program, so for me, I know I can help them if I will just spend more time teaching the players about soccer. I know they will improve," said Koo, who was the technical director of Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong and came out of coaching retirement to go to Saipan and handle the CNMI Women's National Team.

After the "surprise" first meeting with the islands' female players, Koo and company indeed managed to develop the national team as seen in their performances in various off-island competitions and the number of players showing up and joining the program. Koo coached the squad that earned a historic 7-0 win over Macau in the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup at the Guam Football Association Training Center and also piloted the team to back-to-back triumphs in the Marianas Cup



GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Angie Ito catches the ball during a goalkeeping clinic in Guam early this year.

(2018 and 2019).

Suzuki, who is now in the Philippines working on another football program under Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong, said he saw some of the players she met on Saipan when they came to the Philippines for a training camp.

"Again, I was surprised, but it's a different kind of surprise. In fact, I was impressed with how much they've improved. I can now say that they are really playing soccer. They move the ball around well and

understand the game and how the coach's system works. I am very happy to see them and see the women's program heading into the right direction," Suzuki said.

Along the CNMI Women's National Team's journey, there's Ito, who is the backbone of the squad and does a dual job—assistant coach and manager. Actually, more than two roles, as she also takes care of the group's laundry, meals, and documents during trainings and tournament. She



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2017 file photo, CNMI players listen to the instructions of Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong's Taketomo Suzuki during a summer camp in Hong Kong.

managed to embrace these roles, which also include being a "comforter" to young players who are missing their families during off-island trips, despite having no idea with the sport/program when she first started playing in 2010.

What made her stay despite these challenges?

"It's the girls who want to go

off-island and experience what it's like to play in high-level tournaments and learn a lot of things, not just about football, from the people and places they meet and visit," Ito said.

The respected coach/manager added that like Suzuki and Koo, she is committed to the program to provide players more opportunities, either

to represent the CNMI in off-island tournaments or further their education and compete in collegiate level.

"We are here to give them the tools and it's up to them to use these tools and take the opportunities that come their way so they can reach their potential and realize their goals," Ito said.



Lakers,
Clippers
star in NBA
twinbill

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

Yankees vs
Nationals
in DC on
opening day

PAGE 18



20 MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2020

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Coaches step up to the challenge



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this 2016 file photo, coach Luam Khen Koo supervises the CNMI U19 Women's National Team's training session at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

The CNMI U19 Women's National Team celebrates after beating Guam, 3-2, in the 2018 Marianas Cup at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Players entered the pitch wearing basketball shorts and shoes. They unloaded wayward kicks and passes. Some come to practices on time, others don't.

These were the scenarios that coaches Luam Khen Koo and Taketomo Suzuki remembered when they first started working with the CNMI's female players. Having coached high-level teams in Hong Kong, both Koo and Suzuki were surprised at what greeted them when they set foot on the pitch.

"To be honest, the girls were

not playing football. They were just kicking and chasing the ball with no direction in mind," said Suzuki, who joined Koo and CNMI Women's National Team assistant coach Angie Ito on Episode 7 of Footcast with Norman last Saturday.

"My first impression of the

team was they don't know much about football. Some come just to have fun," added Koo, the 1972 Olympic Games player and former Hong Kong national team coach.

Face with a challenging situation, instead of turning their backs on the team, Su-

zuki and Koo decided to stay and along with the support of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association and assistance from Ito, they turned things around for the CNMI's female players.

When asked what made

**See COACHES on
Page 19**

Patrick Tudela Jr. and Venus Raguine ruled the 2020 Gold's Gym Saipan Challenge.

Tudela was the overall winner in the men's division, while Raguine took the women's top honors in the 12-week transformation competition

Tudela, Raguine top Gold's Gym Challenge

sponsored by PHI Pharmacy, Michelob Ultra, and Brabu Pharmacy & Wellness Center.

Tudela, after his victory, said his real challenge started

about two months in when he felt like giving up.

"But then, that's also when motivation kicked in," said Tudela. "Motivation from

family and friends I hadn't seen in a while saying how good I looked and asking what the secret was. Also, from friends and fellow gym

goer's who I see at every gym session. Some I don't even know, saying that just seeing how hard my gym partner and I work makes them want to

work and push harder. Motivation inspiring motivation."

As for Raguine, she loves the changes in her lifestyle after the event.

**See TUDELA on
Page 19**



The before and after pictures of Patrick Tudela Jr.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The before and after pictures of Venus Raguine.

